HISTORY OF

Fillmore County

MINNESOTA

COMPILED BY

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VOLUME I

ILLUSTRATED

H. C. COOPER, JR. & CO.

CHICAGO

1912

TO THE
STURDY PIONEERS OF FILLMORE COUNTY
WHO, AMID INNUMERABLE HARDSHIPS, BLAZED THE WAY
FOR THE PRESENT GENERATION;
AND TO THEIR
DESCENDANTS AND SUCCESSORS
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED
BY ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED IN ITS CONSTRUCTION.

FOREWORD.

It is with a feeling of considerable pride and pleasure that the publishers present this history for the approval of the people of Fillmore county. The undertaking has not been an easy one and the difficulties have been many, so many indeed that this publication would not have been possible without the liberal assistance of the citizens of the county. The chief contributors and editors have given freely of their time and talent; business men, church officials, fraternity, association and corporation officers, manufacturers, professional men and bankers, often at great personal sacrifice, have laid aside their regular duties to write of their communities and special interests; educators have written of the schools, and men and women in all walks of life have given the information at their command, regarding themselves, their families, their activities and their localities. To all of these the readers of this work owe a lasting debt of gratitude, and to each and every one the publishers extend their heartfelt thanks.

In handling the vast amount of material gathered for this work, it has been the aim of the entire staff to select such matter as is authentic, reliable and interesting. Doubtless facts have been included that many will deem of little moment, but these same facts to others may be of the deepest import. It may be also that some facts have been omitted that many readers would like to see included. To such readers we can only say that to publish every incident in the life of the county would be to issue a work of many volumes, and in choosing such material as would come within the limits of two volumes we believe that the matter selected is that which will prove of greatest interest to the greatest number of readers, and also that which is most worthy of being handed down to future generations who in this work, in far distant years, may read of their large-souled, rugged-bodied ancestors and predecessors, who gave up the settled peace of older communities to brave the rigors of pioneer endeavor.

A few omissions may be due to some of the people of the county, themselves, as in several instances repeated requests for information have met with no response. In such cases information gathered from other sources, while authentic, may be lacking in copious detail.

Before passing hasty judgment on apparent errors, one should consider carefully, not relying on tradition or memory. In many cases we have found that persons' memories are faulty and tradition erroneous when measured by the standard of official records, even in the case of comparatively recent events, while in many instances families are under the impression that their forebears arrived in the county long before it was possible for them to do

so. We have endeavored to follow a uniform system of the spelling of proper names, although various spellings of even the most familiar names appear in the newspapers and records.

Among the works consulted and in many cases copiously copied may be mentioned the History of Fillmore County published in 1882; the publications of the American Bureau of Ethnology and of the Smithsonian Institute; Minnesota in Three Centuries; the histories of southern Minnesota counties by the editor of the present work; the various publications of the state of Minnesota and the United States government, as well as the publications of the Iowa and Minnesota historical societies, and many other biographical, historical and archaeological works of reference. The county, township, city, church and village records have been studiously perused. Hundreds of minute books have been examined and thousands of letters and original manuscripts carefully scanned. To all who have extended us courtesies during our search for these records we extend our thanks.

The biographies have all been gathered with care from those most interested, and with a few exceptions have been revised and corrected by the subject of the biography or by a relative or friend. This, however, refers to the dates, and sequence of events, all personal estimates being the work of the editors, and inserted in biographies only after consultation with other members of the staff.

That this history is faultless we do not presume; it is probably not within the power of man to arrange a work of this kind without mistakes of one sort or another; that it will meet the unqualified approval of all we dare not expect, but we trust that the merits of the history will overbalance any shortcomings that may be discovered.

Our association with the people of Fillmore county has been a most pleasant one. We have conscientiously performed our task, and in placing the history in the hands of those whom it most concerns, our hope is that we have done our work well.

H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.

Chicago, Ill., September 1, 1912.

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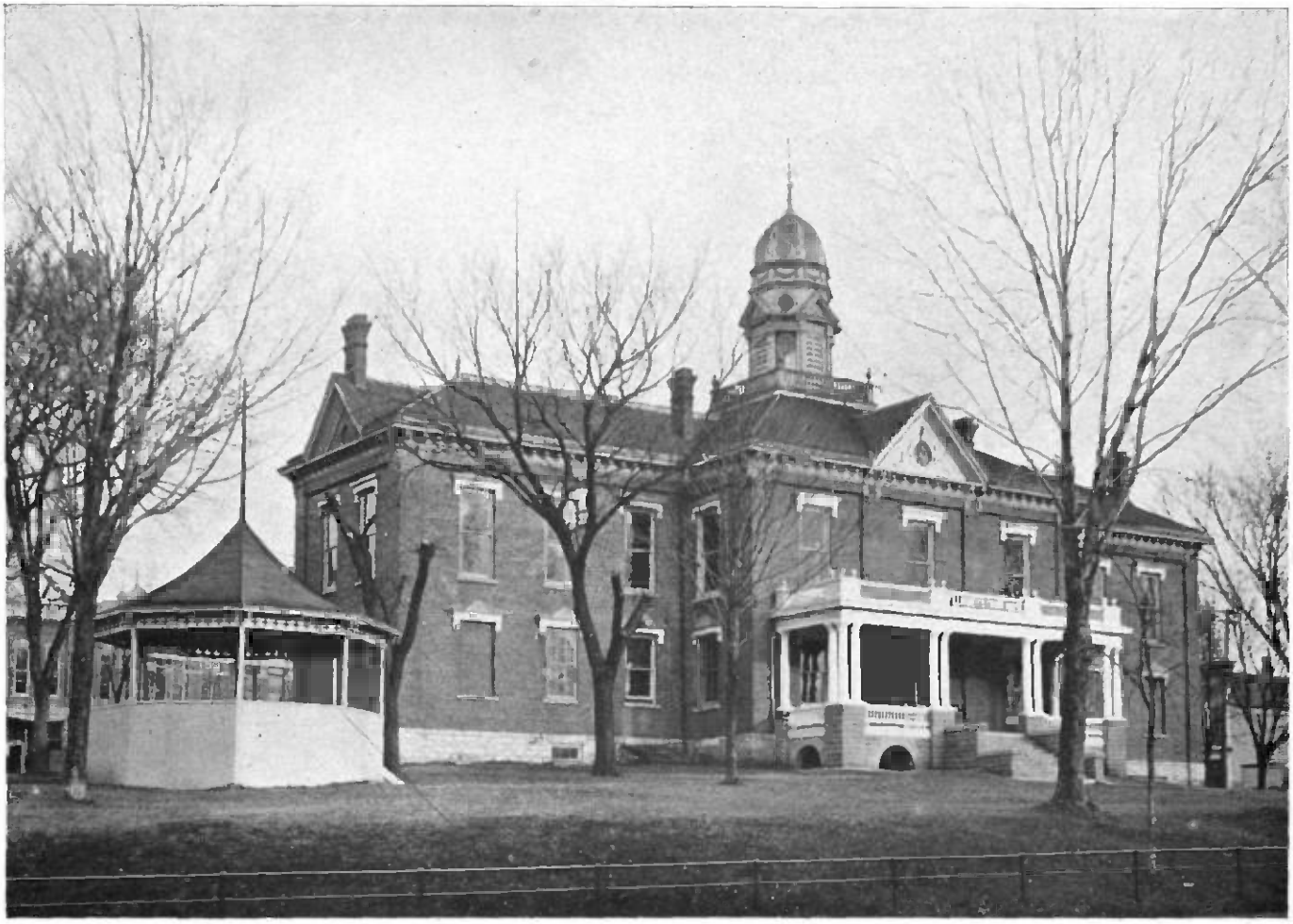

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NATURAL PHENOMENA.

Introduction—Advantages—Climate—Location and Area—Natural Drainage—Surface Features—Sink Holes—Elevations—The Soil—Native Trees—The Geological Structure—Material Resources—Fuel—Quicklime—Building Stone—Brick—Sand for Mortar and Concrete—Lead—Iron—Gold—Copper.

Situated near the extreme southeastern part of that sturdy commonwealth known in the galaxy of states as Minnesota, lies a favored county which has taken its name from sturdy old Millard Fillmore, of New York, who assumed the executive office of the United States Government on the death of Zachary Taylor, July 9, 1850, and was succeeded by Franklin Pierce, March 4, 1853, just one day before Fillmore county was created by the Minnesota Territorial Legislature.

A fertile country of rich black soil, its surface divided into hills and rolling land and prairies, cut with picturesque ravines, beautified by meandering streams, and interspersed with natural and domestic groves, the county has advantages which have placed it in the foremost ranks of Minnesota's agricultural and grazing districts. The elevation of this stretch of land above the sea, its fine drainage and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. Its latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer, and during the growing seasons about one and a half hours more of sunshine than in the latitude of St. Louis. The refreshing breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effect of heat so often felt in lower latitudes. The winter climate is also one of the attractive features. Its uniformity and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and the electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and to make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

Embracing, as the county does, so pleasing a prospect to the eye, and so fruitful a field for successful endeavor, it is natural that the people who from the earliest days were attracted here should be the possessors of steady virtues, ready to toil and to sacrifice, that their labors might be crowned with the fruits of prosperity and happiness. The cities and villages have had

their part in the general commercial upbuilding of the state, and furnish excellent trading and shipping facilities for the rural districts. In these centers, milling and manufacturing are carried on to a greater or less extent, and the dairy and creamery interests are important.

The rural districts are the scene of peace, prosperity and contentment. The homes are substantially built, and furnished with the comforts and conveniences of modern life, stock is humanely housed and well pastured, the farm land is extensively tilled and productive, and the churches and schools which are seen on every side testify to an interest in the higher things of life by a law-abiding, progressive and loyal people.

It is indeed in its men and women, rather than in its grains and vegetables, its live stock and fruit, its factories and commerce, that Fillmore county takes its greatest pride. From her farms, from her villages and from her cities have gone forth those who have taken an important part in the activities of the world, and who, whether in commerce or diplomacy, in the professions or in the trades, have maintained that steadfastness of purpose and staunchness of character that mark true Fillmore county men and women wherever they may be found.

Unusually blessed by nature with deep soil and abundant natural resources, and endowed with a wealth of prehistoric and historic lore, the county is a fitting home for the sturdy people who have here made their dwelling place. Hard-working, progressive, educated and prosperous, they have appreciated the gifts which nature has spread for them, and have added their own toil, and the fruit of their intellects, to the work of the elements, making the county one of the beautiful spots of the earth. On the slopes graze cattle and sheep, while the tilled lands respond to the efforts of the springtime sower and planter with a wealth of harvest in the summer and autumn. On nearly every quarter section is reared a comfortable home and commodious barns, while from the crest of every swell of land are visible the churches and schools wherein the people worship the Giver of all Gifts, and educate their children. Thus blessed by God and beloved by man, the county today stands for all that is ideal in American life and is forging ahead to still wider influence and more extended opportunity.

Fillmore county, unsurpassed by no county in the state for the fertility of its soil; its bountiful supply of timber and pure water; its numerous water powers; its diversified surface of hills, valleys and rolling prairies, and its adaption to every variety of agricultural product; has furnished to the citizens material wisely improved by them for substantial wealth, good homes, and sound public institutions, economically and prudently administered;

where law and good order, industry and sobriety, have always been upheld and observed; where the comforts and provisions for enjoyment of life are evenly distributed, and where, in the future, as in the past, "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, will be established throughout all generations."

Location and Area. Fillmore county is on the southern border of the state of Minnesota, the second west from the Mississippi river. Olmsted and Winona counties are contiguous on the north, Houston county on the east, Iowa on the south, and Mower county on the west. It has twenty-four government townships. Jordan, Chatfield, Arendahl, Rushford, Fillmore, Fountain, Norway, Bloomfield, Forestville, Carimona, Preston, Amherst, Preble, Beaver, York, Bristol, Harmony, Canton, and Newburg coincide with the outlines of the original congressional surveys. The inclusion in Carrolton of the southern halves of sections 33, 34 and 35, township 104, range 10, and all of sections 6 and 7, township 103, range 9, causes a corresponding curtailment in Pilot Mound and Holt, respectively. The same may be said of section 6 and the west half of section 5, township 103, range 13, a curtailment of Spring Valley being caused by the inclusion of this tract in Sumner.

The county lies between the forty-third and forty-fifth parallel of north latitude, and between ranges 7 and 14 west and townships 100 and 105 north. The principal stream is the Root river, which comes into the county from the west about six miles from the northern boundary, and meandering toward the east crosses the line about three miles south of the northeast corner. It has several branches coming in at various points, the largest of which is the south branch, which vies with the main branch as to size, and arises outside of the county on the west and unites in the northeast part of Carrolton with the main stream. This branch also has other branches quite important coming generally from the south. The South fork of the Root river, which becomes an important stream in Houston county, arises in the southern central part of this county and leaves it near the center of the eastern boundary. The various rivers and the topographical features are more fully described in the geological sketch and in the separate township delineations.

The county is four townships wide from north to south, or twenty-four miles, and six from east to west, or thirty-six miles; its area being about 864 square miles, or 553,081.77 acres. It has very few acres not suitable for tillage, and unlike many other counties to the north and west, it is a lakeless region.

Preston is the county seat, and the geographical center of the county is but a few blocks from the courthouse, as the village is in the northwest corner of the township of the same name and

touches the corner of three other towns. The other principal centers in the county are Lanesboro, Spring Valley, Chatfield, Rushford, Canton, Harmony, Mabel, Fountain, Wykoff, Peterson, Whalan, Ostrander and Prosper.

Natural Drainage. Root river, with its tributaries, drains nearly the whole of the county. The Upper Iowa river, which meanders about the state line in this county, receives a few small streams from the southern tier of townships. Root river, flowing toward the east, spreads out its tributaries north and south, crossing the entire county, from west to east. Many of the branches of the Root river rise in the counties next west and north of Fillmore county, in a tract of country covered with northern drift. After entering Fillmore county, they soon enter cañon-like valleys, and the drift becomes much lighter. They then converge toward the main valley, following deeply cut rocky valleys, and leave the county in one volume at Rushford, in the northeastern corner of the county. These streams furnish frequent water power privileges, and a number of them have been improved at various times in the erection of mills.

Surface Features. That portion of the county which is covered with a thick deposit of foreign drift presents the usual monotony of surface, characteristic of the drift latitudes. This includes the most of the western range of townships across the western end of the county, and some portions of the next range east. There are, however, even within the drift area, a number of narrow, deeply cut valleys, with precipitous, rocky bluffs, having very much the nature of cañons, like those of the driftless territories of the west. Toward the east these deeply cut valleys are more numerous. All little streams, and a great many narrow valleys that have no running water in them, have high, rocky bluffs along their whole course. These valleys and streams, constituting the drainage system of the county, converge toward the valley of Root river. The valley of this stream, with its principal tributaries, presents some of the most remarkable and instructive phenomena of erosion to be found in the state. It passes nearly at right angles across the strike of the formations. These are alternating limestones and sandstones, with an occasional bed of soft shale. The Trenton limestone, underlaid by the easily eroded St. Peter sandstone, the same as at the Falls of St. Anthony, although about 160 feet in thickness, is eaten into by the retroaction of the water as it plunges over the falls at the point where the streams cross the line of its superposition over the St. Peter, until they have each excavated in the Trenton a deep channel from fifteen to thirty miles in extent. Through the line of strike of the St. Peter these valleys are widened out, the surface of the low ground within the bluffs being usually one of rich meadow

with undulating surface, from 100 to 200 feet below the general level. The Lower Magnesia Formation is entered upon by the streams while they are as yet a good many miles within the general area of the Trenton. As this formation consists of three members (two limestones, separated by a sandstone thirty feet in thickness), it repeats the succession of phenomena witnessed in the erosion of the Trenton and St. Peter. As the water leaves the Shakopee limestone and enters upon the Jordan sandstone, it passes over a series of rapids or a fall of several feet perpendicular, which falls or rapids undergo a process of recession under the same causes as produce the recession of the Trenton-St. Peter falls. Again, when the stream passes from the St. Lawrence limestone upon the St. Croix sandstone the same conjunction of circumstances causes another rapid or waterfall. Thus by a series of steps, more or less evident, the branches of the Root river descend from the area of the Galena limestone to the St. Croix sandstone. The valleys widen in the sandstone areas, and become abruptly narrow in the limestone belts. In passing down a stream, within a sandstone area, where the valley is perhaps half a mile wide, with tilled farms in the bottom land, the high bluffs being remote from the stream, the first indication of an approaching change in the formation is the rise of a terrace along the immediate river bank, with an occasional exposure of lime rock facing the water. This terrace, which becomes almost continuously rocky, rises slowly till it exposes the full thickness of the rock which causes it. On the other hand, the first evidence of a change from limestone to sandstone, visible in descending the stream, is the occurrence of a waterfall or rapid. Such changes produce water-powers, many of which have been improved. Hence, the location of a mill, on one of these branches, is an intimation to the geologist that at that point one of his boundary lines crosses that stream. Around these points gathered the first village settlements. Preston is located where the water-power formed by the descent of the river from the Shakopee on to the Jordan induced the construction of mills. The water-power at Chatfield is formed in the same way. Near Fillmore the branches of Root river, known as Deer and Bear creeks, afford good water-powers by their descent from the lower Trenton to the St. Peter. On the south branch of Root river, above Forestville, the stream leaves the Trenton, and the waterfall has been improved in the same manner. The same fact is illustrated by a large number of eastward flowing streams, in the eastern border counties, between Fillmore county and the Falls of St. Anthony at Minneapolis. Of course, rapids are also likely to be formed, especially in small streams, when passing through the areas of

rock of uniform hardness. Such water-powers, and others that are formed by the construction of dams, do not fall into this class.

While the immediate valleys of Root river and its tributaries are apt to be rocky, the country that spreads out in either direction, after leaving the valleys, is not rough. It is rolling, or undulating. In the eastern portion the rocks are covered by a heavy deposit of rich, clayey loam, known as the loess, which fills up many depressions, and lends a uniform and remarkable fertility to the soil. It constitutes the soil. The farms are all well drained, naturally. The county contains no lakes. In York township there is a slough which on some maps is represented as a lake. It is about a quarter of a mile across. The Trenton area is distinctly separated, topographically, from that of St. Peter and the lower formations. From the Trenton to the Lower Magnesian the surface descends by a step or terrace about 125 feet. Some of the Trenton areas are isolated from the main area, and constitute small tables or mounds, which are well known as "Trenton mounds" in the early reports. These geologic mounds should not be confused with the artificial mounds which are mentioned elsewhere. From some of the elevated Trenton areas overlooking the river valleys, magnificent views of landscape may be had. From the elevated Trenton area in Newburg township, the eye looks over the valley of Root river, and can almost discern the Trenton bluffs on the opposite slopes of Root river in the northern part of the county. From the peninsula of the Trenton running north between Camp and Willow creeks, in Preston township, the village of Fountain is plainly discernible across the valleys of the south branch of Root river and Watson's creek, with a wide expanse of alternating timber and prairie between, while on either side is a broad, undulating valley of prairie land. On the east is Camp creek valley, and on the west is that of Willow creek. These valleys are deep and wide, but owing to the thickness of the loess loam, the slopes are gentle and broad. Another magnificent view may be obtained from the Trenton peninsula on sections 10 and 15 in Carrolton. From here the view extends north over the valley of Root river to the Trenton bluffs along the north boundary of the county, a distance of over forty miles, and toward the south over the valley of the south branch of Root river, looking over Preston and Lanesboro, which are situated within the river bluffs, so far below the general level of the country that they can be seen but a short distance before reaching them. Further down Root river valley, the gorge in which the river runs becomes wider, being at Rushford about two miles in width, with fine farm lands in the bottoms. The bluffs are rounded off with age, and have a thin soil, generally turfed, though showing frequent rock exposure. The river is there 565

feet below the tops of the bluffs, as measured by aneroid. At Whalan, in Holt township, the river is, by the same measurement, 470 feet below the top of the Trenton terrace on section 20. Whalan's Bluff is 250 feet high above the river. At Lanesboro, in Carrolton, the river is 285 feet below the immediate river bluffs, which consist wholly of the Lower Magnesian formation, and about 440 feet below the top of the Trenton terrace on section 20, Holt. At Preston the river at the stone mill is 335 feet below the Trenton terrace, which forms the general level about a mile south of the village. At Isinours station the river runs 145 feet below the top of the Shakopee limestone, which forms there the brow of the immediate river bluffs. At Forestville, the height of the country, north of the village, above the river, is 285 feet. The immediate river bluffs are 190 feet above the mill pond. At Chatfield, the river is about 222 feet below the general level of the country. At Fillmore, the prairie upland is 200 feet above the river level. From Fountain to Isinours station, the track of the Southern Minnesota railroad descends 401 feet, passing from the upper Trenton to the St. Lawrence, and entering the latter formation about twenty-five feet, the rocks all lying nearly horizontal. On Deer creek, section 11, Spring Valley, the river is 205 feet below the general level of the country. There is here a little drift, but the cut is mostly in the Galena and Trenton limestones. The village of Fountain is about 350 feet higher than the terrace, at Preston, on which the Tibbetts House stands. These measurements might be multiplied, but enough have been given to show the unevenness of the surface, due to erosion. The rocks lie everywhere nearly horizontal. The varied topography of the county is due to the influence of running water and atmospheric forces, on the rocks, combined with their alternations of limestone with soft sandstone. The limestones are firm, and resist these forces much longer than the sandstones. They alternate in the following manner, in descending order: Trenton limestone, St. Peter sandstone, Shakopee limestone, Jordan sandstone, St. Lawrence limestone, St. Croix sandstone.

The limestones form the prominent features in the topography. They have the most frequent outcrops. They project along the summits of the bluffs, and constitute the brows of benches or terraces that diversify the county. The sandstones never, or very seldom, appear in the tops of the bluffs. They outcrop in sheltered nooks, or below the line of the limestone exposure. They are more likely to be hid by soil and turf. The lower Trenton contains, besides about twenty feet above the St. Peter sandstone, a layer of easily eroded green shale, which, outcropping by roadsides, introduces a series of springs and muddy spots, being impervious to water, that invariably follows that boundary line

wherever it goes. It withstands the disintegrating action of the elements even more successfully than the limestones themselves. For that reason it protects that portion of the Trenton which lies below it, long after that which lies above it has been entirely denuded. The strike of the upper Trenton is often driven back several miles from that of the lower Trenton. The lime rock which lies below this shale is about twenty feet thick. The singular Trenton mounds, which have already been mentioned, are composed of the lower Trenton protected by a greater or less thickness of the green shale, and a portion of the St. Peter sandstone. Instances of the wearing down of the Trenton and St. Peter formations are seen in almost every square mile in the loam-covered area along the outrunning strike of the Trenton.

Sink Holes. Throughout the Trenton area are found a great many depressions that are well known as "sink holes." These consist of broken down spots in the drift or loam, where it had been spread over a pre-existing cañon in the rock. In some places they are very numerous, but are confined, so far as known, with but a single exception, to the Trenton areas. They throw some light on the condition of rocky surface prior to the period which witnessed the spreading of the drift. The rock was wrought, at least in Fillmore county, in very much the same manner as we now see it along the river gorges. The immense valleys of erosion which we see, not only in Fillmore county, but also throughout the tract that has been denominated the "Driftless area," were excavated before the glacial period. When the streams of the present time run in such gorges they have been so located by the exigencies of surface drainage and erosion since the glacial epoch. That these gorges antedate the glacial period is shown by their existence beneath the glacial drift. These "sink holes" sometimes occur in lines, and with increasing frequency and size toward a large valley, and at last coalesce so as to form a continuous valley, though frequently without running water, that becomes tributary to the larger gorge. These gorges under the drift can sometimes be traced for some distance by a series of successive "sink holes." Sometimes streams are lost in them, and reappear at lower levels. There are several well known subterranean passages in the county. Lost creek, in Jordan township, and the Brook Kedron, in Sumner, both have underground passages for several miles. Canfield creek, south of Forestville, runs underground about twelve miles, and, finally, the south branch of Root river sinks on the northeast quarter of section 19, Forestville, and runs underground, except in high water, to about the center of section 21, where it reappears again. These underground passages are in the area of Trenton. They indicate the corrugated surface the country presented prior to the over-

spreading of the drift and loess loam. The Trenton cannot be supposed to have been any more subject to such causes as produced this channeling in the rock than the other formations of the Lower Silurian. There is some reason, however, why these gorges are found almost entirely confined to that limestone. As has been said, the rest of the Lower Silurian consists of alternating sandstones and limestones, which conduces to their breaking down laterally, the sandstones easily crumbling out. The Trenton limestone, on the other hand, while it has a thickness of 160 feet, more or less, has, near its base, a bed of impervious shale, which prevents the downward infiltration of surface water, and protects the underlying sandstone. Hence the erosions that operate laterally, in tearing down the other Lower Silurian formations, are occupied, in the Trenton limestone area, in cutting narrow perpendicular gorges. For this reason the Trenton area is everywhere the highest in the county. From the eastern boundary of the Trenton, looking east, one beholds a broad landscape lying several hundred feet, in some places, below him, the effect of the more rapid denudation of the rocks of that portion of the county. Into such narrow gorges neither the drift nor the loess loam, however deposited, would enter with such compactness as to close up the pre-existing water courses; and when partially closed up, as they were wherever "sink holes" have since appeared, they have been undergoing ever since a process of re-excavation. This process is revealed in the occasional collapsing of the surface soil, and the formation of a new "sink hole," and in the enlargement of others, since the settlement of the county.

Elevations. The general elevation of the county above the sea may be judged from the following figures: Rushford depot, 711 feet; Lanesboro depot, 831 feet; Isinours station, 888 feet; Fountain depot, 1,289 feet; Grand Meadow, Mower county, 1,325 feet.

The Soil. The soil of the county is generally very fertile. The immediate surface is a loam. This varies in color and composition, as well as in origin. That portion of the county covered with the northern drift has primarily a drift soil, which consists of gravelly clay. Where this forms the immediate surface, which is the case only on knolls and on the brows of the river bluffs, it affords a soil of an ashen color, if dry. In timbered belts it is more stony, or gravelly. In the open prairies, and in low grounds, it is covered with a loam. This is believed to have resulted from the natural decomposition of the coarse materials of the drift, under the calcining influence of the prairie fires, and the frosts of ages. It has never been seen stratified, or arranged with any regularity that would indicate its having been deposited either

by standing or running water. In most cases, especially on the open prairie, it is nearly black. As it is mingled with the drift clay it becomes lighter colored. In the low grounds it is much thicker, and also of a black color. Overlapping the drift area, in a belt about five miles wide, is a soil formed by the mingling of the loess loam with the drift. The loess loam is later than the glacial drift, and in the process of deposition it is modified by contact with the drift clay. The loess loam is indistinctly stratified, though it usually appears massive, and consists of fine, often clayey sediment. The soil derived from it, usually sandy and light colored, or rusty, is sometimes so clayey as to make, when wet, a fine and very slippery mud. The soil derived distinctively from the loess loam covers at least one-half of the county, and is supposed to extend to the Mississippi river. It makes a rich and apparently a strong soil. It is impossible to define its western limit. If it were derived from a long-standing inland lake, some beach lines would be found indicating its western boundary. No beach lines have been found. That it was deposited from standing water can hardly be questioned. It thins out westwardly gradually, passing through a confused or mixed condition, resulting from the mingling of the drift materials with the sediment, or by its overlapping the drift. While the essentially loess loam soil of the eastern part of the county can be distinguished easily from the drift soil of the western, no line of demarkation separating them has been noticed. A line drawn from the southeast corner of Bristol to the northeast corner of Jordan would roughly set off the area that has a distinctively loess loam soil. West of that is a belt five or six miles wide, in which the loess loam soil mingles with the drift soil. The rest of the county toward the west is occupied with a distinctively drift soil, or drift loam soil.

Native Trees. The following list embraces such native trees and shrubs as were seen in the survey of the county. The trees are arranged in the estimated order of frequency:

Burr oak. Quercus macrocarpa. Michx.

Red oak. Quercus rubra. L. (?) [This is the oak that is abundant as underbrush, and small trees. It often forms thickets skirting the outlines of a prairie.]

Aspen. Populus tremuloides. Michx. [Generally small, and on the borders of prairies.]

White oak. Quercus alba. L. [Common in the timber in Spring Valley and Jordan townships, and generally along the valleys of the principal streams.]

Wild Plum. Prunus Americana. Marsh.

Great-toothed Poplar. Populus grandidentata. Michx. [Very frequently mistaken for the American Aspen.]

American Elm. Ulmus Americana. (Pl. Clayt.) Willd.

Bass. Tilia Americana. L.

White Ash. Fraxinus Americana. L.

American Crab. Pyrus coronaria. L. [Common along the margins of prairies and in open valleys.]

Iron Wood. Ostrya Virginica. Willd.

Red Maple. Acer rubrum. L.

Sugar Maple. Acer saccharinum. Wang. [Common in the heavy timber in Spring Valley and Jordan townships.]

Cottonwood. Populus monilifera. Ait.

Black Cherry. Prunus serotina. Ehr. [Trees generally small.]

Black oak. Quercus tinctoria. Bart. (?) [Found in the heavy timber in the northwestern portion of the county.]

Bitternut. Carya amara. Nutt.

Butternut. Juglans cinerea. L. [Seen most abundant in the heavy timber in the northwestern part of the county.]

Wild Red Cherry. Prunus Pennsylvanica. L.

Thorn Apple. Crataegus coccinea. L.

Cockspur Thorn. Crataegus Crus-galli. L.

White Birch. Betula alba. Var. populifolia Spach. (?) [Trees small; generally on stony soil, or along rocky river banks.]

Black Walnut. Juglans nigra. L. [In the heavy timber of the northwestern part of the county.]

Box Elder. Negundo aceroides. Mænch.

Small Cedar. Juniperus Sabina. L. Var. procumbens. Pursh. (?) [Along the rocky river bluffs.]

White Pine. Pinus Strobus. L. An occasional large tree is seen along the river bluffs; but the most of it suitable for lumber has been cut.

Water Beech. Carpinus Americana. Michx.

Shag-bark Hickory. Carya alba. Nutt. [Seen in the valley of Root River, and in the tributary gorges at Rushford.]

Smooth Sumac. Rhus glabra. L.

Cornel. Cornus paniculata. L'Her.

Cornel. Cornus circinata. L'Her.

Wolfberry. Symphoricarpus occidentalis. R. Br.

American Woodbine. Lonicera grata. Ait.

Juneberry. Amelanchier Canadensis. Torr. and Gray.

Hazlenut. Corylus Americana. Walt.

High blackberry. Rubus villosus. Ait.

Red Raspberry. Rubus strigosus. Michx.

Black Raspberry. Rubus occidentalis. L.

Dwarf Wild Rose. Rosa lucida. Ehr.

Pipe Vine. Aristolochia Sipho. L'Her. (?)

Grape. Vitis Cordifolia. Michx.

Virginia Creeper. Ampelopsis quinquefolia. Michx.

Nine Bark. Spiraea opulifolia. L.

Sheep-berry. Viburnum lentago. L.
Staghorn Sumac. Rhus typhina. L.
Bittersweet. Celastrus scandens. L.
Rose. Rosa blanda. Ait.

In addition to the timbered areas, portions of the county are covered with brush. It seems to be the general history of southern Minnesota that after the prairie fires were stopped a species of low willow started to grow. After the willow grew, the hazel, oak and aspen came in, which in time, unless the land was broken and cultivated, gradually converted the original prairie into a bushy or timbered region.

Geological Structure. The rocks of the county belong to the Devonian and to the Upper and Lower Silurian ages. The Cretaceous also appears in Sumner township, in the extreme northwestern corner of the county. They occur as arranged in the following order, with their approximate thickness:

1. Cretaceous. Thickness unknown, perhaps 100 feet, lying unconformably on the older rocks. 2. Upper Devonian. Hamilton, 100 feet (?). 3. Lower Devonian. Corniferous (?), 100 feet. 4. Niagara of the Upper Silurian, 200-250 feet. 5. Maquoketa (Cincinnati) of the Lower Silurian, 75-100 feet. 6. Galena, of the Lower Silurian, 75-100 feet. 7. Trenton, of the Lower Silurian, 160 feet. 8. St. Peter, of the Lower Silurian, 122 feet. 9. Shakopee, Lower Magnesian of the Lower Silurian, 75 feet. 10. Jordan, Lower Magnesian of the Lower Silurian, 25-40 feet. 11. St. Lawrence, Lower Magnesian of the Lower Silurian, 200 feet. 12. St. Croix, of the Lower Silurian, exposed, 375 feet.

With the exception of the Cretaceous these formations have a "strike" across the county northwest and southeast. They have a gentle dip, at least theoretically, toward the southwest, though no general dip is perceptible. The oldest rock in the county is the St. Croix sandstone, which appears in the northeastern corner of the county. The latest, except the Cretaceous, is the Devonian, in the southwestern part of the county. The boundary between the Trenton and the St. Peter is the most accurately defined, owing to the terrace which marks it. The boundary between the St. Peter and Shakopee it is impossible to ascertain certainly, because of the universality of the loam, which acts, in that respect, just the same as a heavy drift deposit, and also because of the persistency of the Shakopee compared to that of the St. Peter. When the friable rock is below a hard and persistent one, as the St. Peter below the Trenton, the boundary between them can be traced out easily by the resulting topography; but when the soft one is uppermost it wedges out imperceptibly under the loam, or drift, and one cannot say when it is all gone. In the western part of the county the boundary lines

are all obscured by the prevalence of the drift. The Maquoketa shales have not been seen in the county. They are visible in the bluffs of the Upper Iowa river, at Lime Springs, about three miles south of the state line, and very probably continue through Fillmore county, in the strike of the Lower Silurian.

The geological structure of the county, with a record of outcroppings and exposures, is fully treated in the "Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota," prepared by N. H. Winchell and Warren Upham, distinguished Minnesota savants, and published by the state of Minnesota. The article has appeared so many times that it will not be reproduced here. The student will find useful material for study in the scholarly work just mentioned. That work also forms the basis of the article here presented.

Material Recources. Fuel. In addition to the products of the soil, which will always be her chief source of wealth, Fillmore county cannot expect any important mineral discoveries to augment her material prosperity.

There is a marked absence of peat in this county. Some, however, occurs on the southeast quarter of section 26, Spring Valley, and is said to be about four feet thick, covering four or five acres. In other parts of the county there are scattering areas of turf-peat.

Quicklime. All the limestones of the county are suitable for quicklime, but by far the greater quantity is made from the upper Trenton. In the townships of Sumner and Spring Valley, all the circumstances necessary for the cheap and rapid production of quicklime of the best quality co-exist, viz: a suitable limestone, abundant exposure and plenty of fuel. The Trenton there forms some of its characteristic outcrops, constituting the bluffs of the streams continuously for many miles, and rising a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet above the valleys.

Some is still burned in Spring Valley. At one time many people were engaged in the business. The following list of limeburners in 1880, in one vicinity, will give some idea of the extent of the business then carried on: Palmer and Miller, Bear Creek, three kilns. N. E. Fetterly, Bear Creek, three kilns. L. G. Odell, Bear Creek, three kilns (one draw-kiln). Charles Gorton, Bear Creek, one kiln. Allen Brothers, Bear Creek, one kiln. J. Finley, Bear Creek, one kiln. Isaac Kegley, Bear Creek, one kiln. L. Stout, Bear Creek, one kiln. T. J. Hammer, Bear Creek, one kiln. Elder Cyrus Young, Bear Creek, two kilns. Harvey McQuillan, Bear Creek, two kilns. Olds & Braley, section nine, Spring Valley, one kiln. I. N. Cummings, section eleven, Spring Valley, one kiln. J. H. Hall, section twelve, Spring Valley. These all burned the upper Trenton. Throughout the county, where

the Trenton limestone appears, there have at various times been lime-kilns to supply the local demand.

Building Stone. With this necessary article Fillmore county is well supplied, and it has been put to an extensive use. Probably three-fourths of the building stone which has been used in the county is derived from the Trenton, the other fourth being made up of the Galena and the St. Lawrence. The Lower Trenton is most frequently employed. This is largely owing to the prominent manner of its out-crops, as shown under the head of "Drainage and Surface Features." The Upper Trenton has been used in the construction of several schoolhouses and private residences. At Spring Valley the Galena is principally used. At Lanesboro, Whalan, Peterson and Rushford, the St. Lawrence. The Shakopee and Jordan are but rarely resorted to.

Near Fountain the Lower Trenton supplies the "blue limestone." The beds are usually less than six inches in thickness, and they are easily broken to any desired size. It is a hard stone, not easily cut, but can be dressed if necessary. It is not injured by disseminated shale, as much of the Lower Trenton is, and hence makes a very durable material. At Fountain are several buildings constructed of this stone.

From the St. Lawrence limestone a very fine building stone is obtained. It is a fortunate circumstance that very much of this formation is in regular and often in heavy layers. These are also not so firm as to resist the usual means for quarrying. When the beds are broken the blocks are found to possess often a finely vesicular texture. Their color is a very light yellow, or buff, resembling that of the well known "Milwaukee brick."

Brick. There is no lack of materials for making common red brick. In some places the surface of the drift clay is used, containing some fine gravel, and at others the loess-loam. Considerable brick has been made in the county at various times.

Sand for Mortar and Concrete. Wherever the St. Peter sandstone is accessible it is employed for making mortar. It is equally good for hard finish, being, when taken from some depth, purely white and of very uniform fineness. There are, however, some portions of the county where it is much more difficult to obtain a sand suitable for common mortar. In the western part of the county a white sand, or one nearly white, is obtained from deposits referable to the Lower Cretaceous. They are found in the southeast quarter of section 8, in the northwest quarter of section 22 and in the northeast quarter of section 36 in Bloomfield as well as in section 17, Spring Valley. Besides these sources of mortar-sand, the Jordan sandstone, which is often as incoherent as the St. Peter, can be used to advantage, though it is rather more apt to be cemented by iron. There can be no question but that the

compact and impervious nature of the green shales of the Lower Trenton has preserved the incoherency of the St. Peter, by preventing the downward percolation of ferriferous and calcarous waters, which certainly would have left their impurities in the form of cement among its beautiful white grains.

Lead. While the Galena limestone, which is eminently lead-bearing at Dubuque and Galena, passes, in its northwestern trend, across the southwestern portion of Fillmore county, it has not been discovered to afford the same amount of lead as in Iowa and Illinois. Indeed, at points more remote from the Mississippi river, in Iowa, no remarkable deposits of lead have been obtained from it. There is not a total absence of lead from its layers, since a few localities are known to have afforded it in limited quantities. The same is true of the Lower Trenton; which seems to indicate that the presence of lead in the limestone of this region does not depend on the kind or age of the formation, but rather on some later, superimposed conditions that prevailed over the region, subjecting various formations to the same influences.

Iron. Throughout the western portion of the county there is a great deal of surface iron, manifesting itself generally in the form of a cement in gravel, forming a dark-colored "crag." There is also much evidence of the existence of a heavy continuous layer or deposit of limonite iron ore a few feet below the surface, in Bloomfield and Beaver townships. This bed consists of a loose textured hydrated peroxyd, with ochery impurities, and bears a close resemblance to some bog-ore deposits; but its occurrence on high land, instead of in swamps, necessitates some other explanation for its existence than that ascribed to the occurrence of most bog-ore deposits. It may have originated during that swampy condition of southern Minnesota when the peat grew that is embraced in the drift deposits. It is not probable that it will ever be found valuable for the manufacture of iron. Before the opening up of the vast and richer iron ore beds of Michigan and Missouri, the bog-ores were considerably used in the production of iron, on a small scale, in several of the western states, but the small furnaces that smelted them have all ceased operations many years ago.

Gold, Copper. In small quantities gold has been washed, by rude methods, from the drift at several points in the county. It was found in gravel, in the northeast quarter of section twenty-six, Spring Valley, and in section thirty-one, Jordan. There are accounts also of fragments of native copper having been found in the drift. It is hardly necessary to say that these discoveries do not indicate any valuable deposit of the kind in the rocks of the localities where they may be found. They pertain to the drift, and have been transported hundreds of miles along with the

other foreign substances in which they occur, from the northern part of the state. Such discoveries have sometimes awakened an interest that has culminated in stock companies formed for mining, and in the wasting of thousands of dollars. Similar small quantities of gold can be got by a minute washing of the drift at almost any place where the drift sheet is attenuated, or where the older glacial drift has been denuded, leaving the gold, which is indestructible, either by the lapse of time or by the chemistry of the elements, on the rock surface underlying. Practically every geological report in the country makes mention of them, and the evidences are common in all our neighboring states.

ANCIENT LANDMARK

CHAPTER II.

THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS.

The Mound Builders—Evidence of Their Existence in Fillmore County—An Ancient Battlefield — Other Indian Remains—Modern Indians—Interesting Items Concerning Those Whom the Early Settlers Succeeded.

At some period of the earth's history mankind in some form took up its abode in what is now Fillmore county. A discussion as to the existence of man in Minnesota during Glacial and Pre-Glacial ages is beyond the scope of this work. The Mound Builders have left undisputed evidence of their occupancy. Speculation as to the origin, life and habits of these Mound Builders is also beyond the scope of this work. Scholars are of the opinion that of the mounds in this vicinity, some at least were constructed by the immediate ancestors of the Indians found along the upper Mississippi by the earliest explorers. The thoughtful student is referred to the library of the Minnesota Historical Society at St. Paul, for volumes treating of this interesting question.

A volume entitled "The Aborigines of Minnesota," published by the Minnesota State Historical Society in 1911 contains the following notes on the archaeology of Fillmore county:

Rushford Mounds. (a) N. E. ¼, S. E. ¼, Sec. 15, Township 104, 8; about twenty feet above the bottomland, in plowed ground. The group embraces nine tumuli, or ordinary size. Surveyed June 11, 1884. (b) W. ½, N. E. ¼, S. W. ¼, Sec. 23, Township 104, 8. The flat is about twelve feet above the slope. These mounds have been cultivated for years, and some have been entirely obliterated. They are of ordinary size, about thirty feet in diameter and from one foot to two feet in height. The group contains twenty-two, only one being elongated. (c) N. E. ¼, S. W. ¼, Sec. 14, Township 104, 8, about 425 feet above the river. Group contains six mounds, of which two are elongated, but all rather small. Numbers 1, 2, 3 and 5 have been opened and show rock burials. No. 1 is nearly all rock. No. 5 is 32 feet by 20 feet by 3½ feet. Surveyed June 11, 1884. These mounds are on the brow of the outer bluffs of the river, which are essentially rock-formed, and very precipitous, or even perpendicular in many places.

When Alfred J. Hill was examining this region of Minnesota for pre-historical remains B. D. Sprague said to him of the Rushford Mounds that a piece of pottery was found four or five feet below the surface in making excavations for his mill dam, in sand and gravel, associated with stones that had been burnt. The curved earth work from which he took this, and which he mapped, was from eight to ten rods long, and about a foot high.

Lanesboro Group. Besides the Rushford Mounds, others were noted in the geologic examination of Fillmore county made by Prof. N. H. Winchell. These are mentioned in Vol. 1 of the final report of the Geological and Natural History of Minnesota, page 673, as follows: At the junction of the north branch of Root river with the main river a few miles below Lanesboro, sections 1 and 12, Carrolton, are a great many mounds, probably forty in number. Several years since (1879) on the discovery of human bones in plowing the field in which they lie, about twenty of these mounds were examined by some citizens of Lanesboro. The human relics discovered on excavation consist of large human bones, several stone hammers, a copper spearhead, several clay pipes and beads, as well as a small clay image of the human face and head, the latter with a circlet of radiating feathers passing over the top. For a representation of this image of the human face, consult the Popular Science Monthly, Vol. XIX, page 609. Other earthworks are near Houston, in the Yucatan valley.

Ancient Battle Ground. The Lanesboro group is on a terrace which had been plowed over for many years. The American Antiquarian, Vol. III, page 153, has an editorial abstract of statements found in the Lanesboro Journal (Nov., 1879), and Preston (Minn.) Republican, giving an account of remarkable discoveries three miles northeast of Lanesboro, as follows:

"Mr. Newell was plowing on his farm and turned up a skull, which he took to town and exhibited to Dr. D. F. Powell. The doctor went out the following day, accompanied by others who assisted in the excavations, and as a result of their labors several wagon-loads of bones were found, indicating that the mound had been the burial place of fully 600 human beings. The bones were all of full-grown men, there being no remains of women and children, indicating clearly that these were the remains of men killed in battle. A copper spearhead, harder than steel of modern times, a handsome pipe, and other articles were secured by the editor of the Lanesboro Journal; also many stone knives and a stone maul, of harder material than exists in this vicinity, were found. Big Fire, great Medicine Man of the Winnebagoes, says that a great battle occurred in that place many centuries ago between the Chippewas and the Sioux, the former coming out victorious and nearly annihilating their enemies. After the bat-

tle a trench was dug and some 600 warriors were piled therein. Big Fire's version of the matter looks very reasonable."

This is apparently the same discovery as referred to in the Popular Science Monthly, Vol. XIX, mentioned above. The statement that the Chippewa penetrated so far south and inflicted such a blow on their hereditary foe, can apply only to some prehistoric warfare—perhaps to the traditional migration of the Lenni Lenape from the Northwest when they made their grand incursion on the early mound builders.

In the "Transactions of the Department of American History of the Minnesota Historical Society," Minneapolis, 1879, page 123, is further account of the remarkable mound group and bone deposit found near Lanesboro in form of a letter from Dr. D. F. Powell (White Beaver), dated November 28, 1879, from which the following is condensed:

Five of the larger mounds were each about thirty-five feet in diameter, the larger from ten to twenty-five feet, without any order of arrangement, on the small bluff which there runs almost due north and south. Number 1 was exactly on the verge of the bluff. No. 5 was isolated. Numbers 2, 3, 6 and 7 contained in aggregate fully three hundred or four hundred skeletons, but No. 5 which was very large, contained but few bones and no implements. About five feet below the surface was a gravel bed, and in this nothing was found, although dug into more than two feet. In No. 3 were found a copper point and a stone pipe, also remnants of a shell necklace and several pieces of pottery. In No. 6 was found part of a stone batchet. In No. 9 was a pipe of burnt clay, shaped something like a common clay pipe of today. Its color was a dull red. The teeth were almost perfect in the upper and lower maxillae of all specimens, but the skulls and all the bones easily crumbled, the skulls also distorted by pressure of the earth above. There was no order of deposit, some having been apparently thrown in, feet uppermost, others sitting, some with heads east, others in every direction.

"As soon as possible," said Dr. Powell, "I sent for one of my Indian friends and my interpreter, a half-breed, well educated and intelligent. They claim that the bones are the remains of a large band of Sioux warriors killed in battle by the Chippewas many generations ago.

"The traditional history of the battle is now being written by my interpreter, who went to Trempeleau and Black River Falls three days ago for that purpose. He claims that many old men from his tribe clearly remember the legend handed down from generation to generation. I will give you the story when written. I accept the stories 'cum grano salis.'"

Nothing further is known of this proposed history of this

traditional battle, but there are some general statements that can be based on the facts that are known. 1.—If the Chippewas were victorious, they did not remain in possession of the country, for they had no such custom of bone burial. 2.—The bones must have been deposited by a mound-building tribe, hence either by Dakota, Iowa or Omaha, or by the Winnebago. 3.—The victors must have remained in possession of the field, hence: 4.—Either the battle was by the Iowa in defense against the Sioux, and resulted in the retirement of the aggressors, or; 5.—it was a victorious onset of the Sioux against the Iowa and resulted in the Sionx gaining the land. 6.—But the battle may have been one of the first of the great traditional wars of the Northwestern Algonquins against the Mound Builders.

Similar conclusions are warrantable if one of the parties were Algonquins of the Sac or the Illinois tribes. The Sac (or Outagamies) are shown on some old French maps as then occupying lands on the west side of the Mississippi. These were non-mound builders.

In April, 1907, N. H. Winchell made an effort to learn the facts as to the preparation of a writen account of the traditional battle, and was aided by O. M. Levang, editor of the Lanesboro Leader; O. G. Wall, former publisher of the Lanesboro Journal; Dr. George E. Powell, La Crosse, Wis.; B. A. Man, of Winona, and Dr. J. C. Hvoslef, of Lanesboro. It appears that such a manuscript was prepared by White Beaver (Dr. D. Frank Powell) and that it embraces other legendary matter concerning the Winnebagoes, but that, if preserved, its whereabouts are unknown.

The statement of Dr. George E. Powell, as below, gives the essential facts as far as they can be ascertained. O. G. Wall has repeated in the Lanesboro Leader, May 18, 1907, the events of the discovery and examination of the mounds by Dr. Powell and himself, on November 14, 1879. In a letter to N. H. Winchell he has outlined the form of a clay pipe, which he still had in his possession. Another of the same size and material was presented to the University of Minnesota museum by B. A. Man in 1879. The pipe found by Mr. Wall is a most interesting relic. The bowl is large and deep. The hole in the top of it is nearly an inch and a quarter in diameter, and tapers to a point at the bottom of the pipe, where it connects with a hole in the stem. The stem is short, about an inch and a quarter in length, and it tapers to a point in the end, and was thus smoked, to all appearances. The workmanship is excellent; in fact, could not be improved.

The following letters were written to Prof. Winchell in 1907 by Dr. George E. Powell, of La Crosse:

"White Beaver had uncommon opportunities to secure the legends of the Winnebago. He was preparing a manuscript of

this kind, but I know not if it was completed or where it is. The great Winneshiek told me that in the legendary lore of his people the 'Mighty Chippewas' surprised his tribe at their home in middle Wisconsin. Though outnumbered, the Winnebagoes made a mighty battle, in which the loss on both sides was enormous. The Winnebagoes took to their canoes down a tributary of the Mississippi, were overhauled, and another fierce battle was fought upon its banks in Wisconsin. Again taking to their canoes, the remnant reached the Mississippi, and went up the Root river, camping upon a bottom east of Lanesboro, in the fork of a stream, or in between the junction of this stream from the north, and the Root river, just about where they joined. Here again the Chippewas overtook and nearly exterminated them. This is about all I know of the story, which many years ago seemed to be the common legend of the older Winnebagoes. Winneshiek also insisted while he lived that the Mississippi, when he was in the prime of manhood, was a trout stream, and that squaws caught trout abundantly anywhere. When I ventured that trout were caught only at or near the mouth of tributaries, he rejected the proposition with vigor, insisting that 'squaws caught them wherever camp was made.' The Mississippi was never muddy, even when very high. The waters were always clear, clearer than its tributaries.

"I regret my inability to give you anything more definite in regard to this matter. Will A. Powell has no knowledge of the papers mentioned. I had no thought the matter would ever be wanted, so neglected to peruse the story with anything but curiosity. I have also forgotten some. My recollection is, though vague, that in his boyhood (Winneshiek's) the then ancient men of his tribe were very familiar with the story, or had participated in the event. He told me of this in 1880. He was apparently then over one hundred years of age. His face was the oldest piece of human parchment in the tribe. I am sure he told me the Chippewas were the people who had driven them. Without knowing positively I retain an impression from Winneshiek that the Lanesboro battle was not much less than two hundred years nor very much more than that length of time. But please remember that this is but a vague impression."

According to the Chatfield Democrat, mounds situated seven miles southwest from Chatfield, on Jordan creek, one mile west of the middle branch of Root river, were examined by Dr. M. A. Trow, accompanied by William Carson and J. M. Underleak. They uncovered six skeletons, but the bones were much decayed, but were thought to have indicated men of enormous size. In some of the mounds, and in the immediate vicinity were found

flint arrow heads and pieces of pottery. These mounds numbered fifteen to twenty and were on the farm of Elijah McGrew.

Pilot Mound Group. On section twenty-two in Pilot Mound there are about a dozen mounds from two to three feet high, and from fifteen to eighteen feet in diameter and circular in their outline. On one of these mounds was found growing by the first settlers a very large maple tree, that must have been very old. James Keatch dug into this mound and found human bones in such quantities as to indicate that a large number had been buried there, and all of these bones appear to have been broken. A copper instrument was also unearthed, one and one-half inches wide, a half-inch thick, and six inches long; also a stone pipe-bowl.

Modern Indian Cemetery. When the valley was first settled a burial place was found near Sprague's old mill. It had been used up to the time that the Indians left, on the advent of the white settlers. There were as many as one hundred graves there, and they were made by laying the cadaver on the ground and heaping earth upon it.

Indian Cornfield. The Indians were acquainted with the value of the lands in the valleys for raising corn, and there was a cornfield near the house of G. W. White in South Rushford; the hills were about the same distance apart as now usually planted, not in rows, but in a hap-hazard sort of a way. The squaws did the planting and harvesting, and to them we are indebted for preserving the seed of this cereal, which the world does not even yet appreciate at its true value.

SPRING VALLEY LANDMARK

CHAPTER III.

INDIAN TREATIES.

Successive Relinquishments by Which Fillmore County Came Into the Possession of the United States—First Visit to Washington—Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825—Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1830—Corner of Fillmore Ceded as a Part of the Half-Breed Tract—Winnebago Treaty of 1832—Winnebagoes Given Possession of the Southeast Corner of Fillmore County—Later Relinquish Their Claim—Doty Treaty—Treaty of Traverse des Sioux—Treaty of Mendota—Fillmore County Passes from the Possession of the Indians.

From prehistoric days up to the time of the treaty signed at Mendota, August 5, 1851, ratified and amended by the United States senate, June 23, 1852, accepted with amendments by the Indians, September 4 and 6, 1852, and proclaimed by President Fillmore, February 24, 1853, practically all the territory embraced in Fillmore county remained in the undisputed possession of the Indians, being claimed, at least since the coming of the explorers, as a hunting ground by the Sioux Indians, but also being visited by other redmen. Before this treaty, however, several agreements were made between the Indians of this vicinity and the United States government, regarding mutual relations and the ceding of lands.

Visit to Washington. In the spring of 1824 the first delegation of Sioux Indians went to Washington to see their "Great Father," the president. A delegation of Chippewas accompanied, and both were in charge of Major Taliaferro. Wabasha, then properly called Wa-pa-ha-sha, the head chief of the band at Winona; and Little Crow, head of the Kaposia band; and Wahnatah, were the principal members of the Sioux delegation. The object of the visit was to secure a convocation of all of the upper Mississippi Indians at Prairie du Chien to define the boundary line of the lands claimed by the separate tribes and to establish general and permanently friendly relations among them. The party went in keel boats from Fort Snelling to Prairie du Chien, and form there to Pittsburgh by steamboat, thence to Washington and other eastern cities by land.

Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825. This treaty was important

to the Indians who ranged over what is now Fillmore county, in that it purported to fix certain boundaries. The treaty was participated in by the Chippewa, Sauk (Sac) and Fox; Menominee, Iowa, Sioux, Winnebago; and a portion of the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi tribes living on the Illinois. The line between the Sioux and the confederated Sauks aud Foxes extended across a part of northern Iowa. It was declared in the treaty to run up the Upper Iowa (now the Oneota) river to its left fork, and up that fork to its source; thence crossing the Cedar river to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines, and in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that river to the Missouri river.

N. H. Winchell says: "This may be understood to mean: Up the Oneota river to the vicinity of Taopi in Mower county, crossing the Cedar river a little south of Austin, and thence westward to Beaver creek in Murray county, near Currie, and thence westward to the Big Sioux and down that river to the Missouri.

However, Charles C. Royce, in the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology (following the map which is numbered 112, in the Office of Indian Affairs at Washington, based on the survey by James Craig, completed in 1833), draws this line as follows: Up the Oneota river to Decorah, Iowa, thence south about seven miles, and thence southwestwardly through the villages of New Hampton and Clarion, and crossing the Des Moines at about the present location of Dakotah.

The boundary lines were certainly, in many respects, quite indefinite, and whether this was the trouble or not, in any event, it was but a few months after the treaty when it was evident that none of the signers were willing to be governed by the lines established—and hardly by any others. The first article of the treaty provided: "There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between the Sioux and the Chippewas; between the Sioux and the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes; and between the 'Ioways' and the Sioux." But this provision was more honored in the breach than the observance, and in a little time the tribes named were flying at one another's throats and engaged in their old-time hostilities.

Second Treaty of Prairie du Chien. In 1830 the second treaty with the northwest Indian tribes was signed at Prairie du Chien. A few weeks previous to the convocation, which was begun July 15, a party of Wabasha's band of Sioux, and some Menominees, ambushed a party of Fox Indians some twelve or fifteen miles below Prairie du Chieu and killed eight of them, including a sub-chief called the Kettle.

The Foxes had their village near Dubuque, and were on their way to Prairie du Chien to visit the Indian agent, whom they

had apprised of their coming. They were in canoes on the Mississippi, and as they reached the lower end of Prairie du Pierreaux, they paddled up a narrow channel which ran near the eastern shore. At this point their concealed enemies opened fire. The Foxes returned to their village, bearing their dead, while the Sioux and Menominees went home and danced over their victory. A few weeks provious the Foxes had killed some of Wabasha's band on the Red Cedar river in Iowa, a few miles southwest of Fillmore county, and the Sioux claimed that their part in the Prairie du Pierreaux was taken in retaliation for the Red Cedar affair. In June of the following year, a large number of Menominees were camped on an island in the Mississippi, less than half a mile from Fort Crawford and Prairie du Chien. One night they were all intoxicated—men, women and children—when two hours before daylight the Dubuque Foxes took dreadful reprisal for the killing of their brethren at Prairie du Pierreaux. Though but a small band, they crept into the Menominee encampment, fell upon the inmates, and in a few minutes put numbers of them to the gun, tomahawk and the scalping knife. Thirty Menominees were killed. When the entire Menominee band had been aroused, the Foxes, without having lost a man, retired, calling out in great exultation that the cowardly killing of their comrades at Prairie du Pierreaux had been avenged.

Because of the Prairie du Pierreaux affair, the Foxes at first refused to be present at the second treaty of Prairie du Chien, but finally came. Delegates were present from four bands of the Sioux, the Medawakantons, the Wapakootas, the Wahpatons and the Sissetons; and also from the Sacs (Sauks), the Foxes and Iowas, and even from the Omahas, Otoes and Missouris, the homes of the last three tribes being on the Missouri river. At this treaty the Indian tribes represented ceded all of the claims to the land in western Iowa, northwestern Missouri, and especially the country of the Des Moines river valley. The lower bands had a special article inserted in the treaty for the benefit of their half-blood relatives:

"The Sioux bands in council have earnestly solicited that they might have permission to bestow upon the half-breeds of their nation the tract of land within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at a place called the Barn, below and near the village of the Red Wing chief, and running back fifteen miles; thence, in a parallel line, with Lake Pepin and the Mississippi river about thirty-two miles, to a point opposite Beef, or O'Boeuf, river, thence fifteen miles to the Grand Encampment, opposite the river aforesaid, the United States agree to suffer said half-breeds to occupy said tract of country, they holding the same title, and in the same manner that other Indian titles are held."

Certificates or "scrip" were issued to many half-breeds, and there was much speculation in them and litigation over them in subsequent years.

The Sioux also ceded to the United States a tract of land twenty miles wide, from the Mississippi to the Des Moines, north of the line defined in the Treaty of 1825 as the boundary between the Sioux on the north and the Sacs and the Foxes on the south. The Sacs and the Foxes also ceded a strip twenty miles wide south of this line, thus making a strip of land forty miles wide, which for many years was known as the Neutral Strip.

The northern boundary of this neutral strip, according to the survey by James Craig, completed in 1833, entered Fillmore county between sections 1 and 12, Preble township, crossed that township, then crossed a part of Amherst, Canton and Harmony townships, and left the county on the southern line of section 36 in Bristol township. The part of the county south of that line was in the Neutral Strip and the rest of the county in Sioux territory.

Treaty of Ft. Armstrong, Rock Island, 1832. This treaty was entered into between the United States and the Winnebago nation, by which the Winnebagoes gave up certain lands in Wiscosin, and in return received a grant to the eastern part of the Neutral Strip bounded on the west by the east fork of the Cedar river to its mouth, and for a short distance by the Cedar river itself. A part of this strip, as already stated, lay in the southeast corner of what is now Fillmore county. By a treaty signed at Washington in 1837, the Winnebagoes agreed to move, within eight months after November 1, 1837, to the portion of the Neutral Strip that had been granted to them. They further agreed that the most eastern twenty miles of this strip along the Mississippi would be used by them only as a hunting ground and not for the establishment of permanent residences. By a treaty signed at Washington October 13, 1846, the Winnebagoes relinquished all claim to the Neutral Strip, and were granted lands near the Minnesota river.

The Doty Treaty. The Doty treaty, made at Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter), in July, 1841, failed to be ratified by the United States senate. This treaty embodied a Utopian dream that a territory of Indians could be established, in which the redmen would reside on farms and in villages, living their lives after the style of the whites, having a constitutional form of government, with a legislature of their own people elected by themselves, the governor to be appointed by the president of the United States, much along the plan long followed with the Cherokees in what is now Oklahoma, except that it embodied for the Indians a much higher type of citizenship than was found in Oklahoma. The

Indians were to be taught the arts of peace, to be paid annuities, and to be protected by the armies of the United States from their Indian enemies on the west. In return for these benefits to be conferred upon the Indians, the United States was to receive all the lands in what is now Minnesota, the Dakotas and northwestern Iowa. This ceded land was not to be opened to the settlement of the whites, and the plan was to have some of it reserved for Indian tribes from other parts of the country who should sell their lands to the United States, and who, in being moved here, were to enjoy all the privileges which had been so beautifully planned for the native Indians. But no one can tell what would have been the result of this experiment, for the senate, for political reasons, refused to ratify the treaty, and it failed of going into effect. This treaty was signed by the Sisseton, Wahpaton and Wahpakoota bands at Traverse des Sioux, July 31, 1841, and by the Medwakanton bands at Mendota, August 11 of the same year.

Treaty of Traverse des Sioux. In the spring of 1851 President Fillmore appointed Governor Alexander Ramsey and Luke Lea as commissioners to open negotiations with the Indians for the purpose of opening to settlement what is now the greater part of Minnesota. The conference was held at Traverse des Sioux (now St. Peter), between the chiefs and head men of the Sisseton and Wahpaton, or Upper Bands, as they were called, and the two commissioners. The Indians were accompanied by their families, and many prominent pioneers were also present. The meeting was held under a brush arbor erected by Alexis Bailly, and one of the incidents of the proceedings was the marriage of two mixed blood people, David Faribault and Nancy Winona McClure, the former the son of Jean Baptist Faribault, and the latter the daughter of Lieut. James McClure. The treaty was signed July 22, 1851, and provided that the upper bands should cede to the United States all their land in Iowa as well as their lands east of a line from the Red River to Lake Traverse and thence to the northwestern corner of Iowa.

Treaty of Mendota. From July 29, 1851, to August 5, Mendota was the scene of the conference which opened Fillmore and surrounding counties to white settlement. The chiefs and head men of the lower bands were thoroughly familiar with the proceedings of the Indians and the representatives of the United States at Traverse des Sioux and all were on hand that bright August day, waiting for the negotiations to open at Mendota. The first session was held in the warehouse of the Fur Company at that place, but the Indians found the atmosphere stifling, and not in accord with their usual method of outdoor councils, so the consideration of the treaty was taken up under a large brush

arbor, erected by Alexis Bailly, on an elevated plain near the high prominence known as Pilot Knob. Dr. Thomas Foster was secretary for Commissioners Lea and Ramsey; the interpreters were Alexander Faribault, Philander Prescott and Rev. G. H. Pond; the white witnesses were David Olmsted, W. C. Henderson, Alexis Bailly, Richard Chute, Henry Jackson, A. L. Carpenter, W. H. Randall, A. S. H. White, H. L. Dousman, Fred C. Sibley, Martin McLeod, George N. Faribault and Joseph A. Wheelock. After much deliberation and many disagreements, the treaty was signed August 5, 1851. Little Crow was the first signer. To the treaty Little Crow signed his original name, Tah O-ya-te Doota, meaning His Red Nation. Wabasha was the next to sign, making his mark. Then the other chiefs, head soldiers and principal warriors crowded around to affix their marks. In all, there were sixty-five Indian signatures.

At Mendota, as at Traverse des Sioux, when the treaty was concluded, each Indian signer stepped to another table where lay another paper which he signed. This was called the traders' paper, and was an agreement to pay the "just debts," so called, of the Indians, including those present and absent, alive and dead, owing to the traders and the trading company. Some of the accounts were nearly thirty years old, and the Indians who had contracted them were dead, but the bands willingly assumed the indebtedness and agreed that it might be discharged out of the first money paid them. The territory ceded by the two treaties was declared to be: "All their lands in the state of Iowa, and also all their lands in the territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line, to-wit: Beginning at the junction of Buffalo river with the Red River of the North (about twelve miles north of Morehead, at Georgetown station, in Clay county), thence along the western bank of said Red River of the North, to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river; thence along the western bank of said Sioux Wood river to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence, in a direct line, to the juncture of Kampeska lake with the Tehan-Ka-Sna-Duka, or Sioux river; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the state of Iowa, including all islands in said rivers and lakes."

The lower bands were to receive $1,410,000, to be paid in the manner and form following: For settling debts and removing themselves to the new reservations, $220,000, one-half to the Medawakanton bands, and one-half to the single Wahpakoota band; for schools, mills and opening farms, $30,000. Of the principal of $1,410,000, the sum of $30,000 in cash was to be distributed among the two bands as soon as the treaty was ratified, and $28,000

was to be expended annually, under the president's direction, as follows: To a civilization fund, $12,000; to an educational fund, $6,000; for goods and provisions, $10,000. The balance of the principal, or $1,160,000, was to remain in trust with the United States at 5 per cent interest, to be paid annually to the Indians for fifty years, commencing July 1, 1852. The $58,000 annuity interest was to be expended as the first installment—$30,000 in cash, $12,000 for civilization, $6,000 for education, and $10,000 for goods and provisions. The back annuities under the treaty of 1837 remaining unexpired were also to be paid annually. Their reservation was to extend from the mouth of the Yellow Medicine and Hawk creek southeasterly to the mouth of Rock creek, a tract twenty miles wide and about forty-five miles in length. The half-breeds of the Sioux were to receive in cash $150,000 in lieu of lands allowed them under the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1830, but which they had failed to claim.

The written copies of the Traverse des Sioux and the Mendota treaties, duly signed and attested, were forwarded to Washington to be acted upon by the senate at the ensuing session of congress. An unreasonably long delay resulted. Final action was not had until the following summer, when, on July 23, the senate ratified both treaties with important amendments. The provisions for reservations for both the upper and lower bands were stricken out, and substitutes adopted, agreeing to pay 10 cents an acre for both reservations, and authorizing the president, with the assent of the Indians, to cause to be set apart other reservations, which were to be within the limits of the original great cession. The provision to pay $150,000 to the half-bloods of the lower bands was also stricken out. The treaties, with the changes, came back to the Indians for final ratification and agreement to the alterations. The chiefs of the lower bands at first objected very strenuously, but finally, on Saturday, September 4, 1852, at Governor Ramsey's residence in St. Paul they signed the amended articles, and the following Monday the chiefs and head men of the upper bands affixed their marks. As amended, the treaties were proclaimed by President Fillmore, February 24, 1853. The Indians were allowed to remain in their old villages, or, if they preferred, to occupy their reservations as originally designated, until the president selected their new homes. That selection was never made, and the original reservations were finally allowed them. The removal of the lower Indians to their designated reservation began in 1853, but was intermittent, interrupted, and extended over a period of several years. The Indians went up in detachments, as they felt inclined. After living on the reservation for a time, some of them returned to their old hunting grounds, where they lived continuously for some time, visiting their reser-

vation and agency only at the time of the payment of their annuities. Finally, by the offer of cabins to live in, or other substantial inducements, nearly all of them were induced to settle on the Redwood Reserve, so that in 1862, at the time of the outbreak, less than twenty families of the Medawakantons and Wahpakootas were living off their reservation. With the subsequent history of these Indians this volume will not deal in detail; the purpose of treating with the Indians thus far in this chapter having been to show the various negotiations by which Fillmore county and the surrounding territory came into the possession of the whites and was thus opened for settlement and development.

It should be stated in this connection that the Medawakanton Sioux, generally speaking, had their villages along the west banks of the Mississippi, within the present limits of the state of Minnesota, while the Wahpakoota Sioux had their headquarters around the headwaters of the Blue Earth and Cannon rivers, both within easy marching distance of their hunting grounds in Fillmore county.

Summary. The territory that is now Fillmore county may, generally speaking, be said to have remained in the possession of the Sioux from some time before the days of the early explorers until the proclamation of the treaty of Mendota, February 24, 1853. It was practically under the domain of Wabasha's band of the Medewakanton Sioux, but was visited at various times by the Chippewas and the Winnebagoes from the eastern side of the Minnesota river, by the Sacs and Foxes who lived to the southward, and by the Iowas who lived to the westward.

The southeast corner of Fillmore county was ceded to the United States by the Sioux, in 1830, and became a part of the Neutral Strip. As a part of the eastern portion of the Neutral Strip, the southeast corner of the county was ceded to the Winnebagoes in 1832, and they agreed to move thereon. The Winnebagoes relinquished their rights in 1846. They were moved onto this strip in 1840, and moved away in 1848. The land was opened to settlement in 1849.

CHARLES B. WILLFORD

CHAPTER IV.

GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY.

Early Claims of Title—Spain, France and England—Treaties and Agreements—Louisiana Purchase—Indiana—Louisiana District—Louisiana Territory—Missouri Territory—Northwest Territory—Illinois Territory—Michigan Territory—Wisconsin Territory—Iowa Territory—No Man's Land—Sibley in Congress—Minnesota Territory—Minnesota State.

The history of the early government of what is now southern Minnesota is formulated with some difficulty, as, prior to the nineteenth century, the interior of the country was so little known and the maps upon which claims and grants were founded were so meager, as well as incorrect and unreliable that descriptions of boundaries and locations as given in the early treaties are vague in the extreme, and very difficult of identification with present-day lines and locations.

The Hon. J. V. Brower, a scholarly authority upon this subject, says ("The Mississippi River and Its Sources"): "Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by papal grant (that of Alexander VI, May 4, 1493), may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking formal possession of this part of her domains other than incidentally involved in De Soto's doings. The feeble objections which she made in the next two centuries after the discovery to other nations exploring and settling North America were successfully overcome by the force of accomplished facts. The name of Florida, now so limited in its application, was first applied by the Spaniards to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico and proceeding northward indefinitely. This expansiveness of geographical view was paralleled later by the definition of a New France of still greater extent, which practically included all the continent.

"L'Escarbot, in his history of New France, written in 1617, says, in reference to this: 'Thus our Canada has for its limits on the west side all the lands as far as the sea called the Pacific, on this side of the Tropic of Cancer; on the south the islands of the Atlantic sea in the direction of Cuba and the Spanish land; on

the east the northern sea which bathes New France; and on the north the land said to be unknown, toward the icy sea as far as the arctic pole.'

"Judging also by the various grants to individuals, noble and otherwise, and 'companies,' which gave away the country in latitudinal strips extending from the Atlantic westward, the English were not far behind the Spaniards and French in this kind of effrontery. As English colonists never settled on the Mississippi in pursuance of such grants, and never performed any acts of authority there, such shadowy sovereignties may be disregarded here, in spite of the fact that it was considered necessary, many years later, for various states concerned to convey to the United States their rights to territory which they never actually ruled over.

"Thus, in the most arbitrary manner, did the Mississippi river, though yet unknown, become the property, successively, of the Iberian, Gaulish and Anglo-Saxon races—of three peoples who, in later times, by diplomacy and force of arms, struggled for an actual occupancy. Practically, however, the upper Mississippi valley may be considered as having been in the first place Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada who first visited it and traded with its various native inhabitants. The further prosecution of his discoveries by La Salle, in 1682, extended Canada as a French possession to the Gulf of Mexico, though he did not use the name of Canada nor yet that of New France. He preferred to call the entire country watered by the Mississippi river and its tributaries, from its uttermost source to its mouth, by the new name he had already invented for the purpose—Louisiana. The name of Canada and New France had been indifferently used to express about the same extent of territory, but the name of Louisiana now came to supersede them in being applied to the conjectural regions of the West. Although La Salle has applied the latter expression to the entire valley of the Mississippi, it was not generally used in that sense after his time; the upper part of the region was called Canada, and the lower Louisiana; but the actual dividing line between the two provinces was not absolutely established, and their names and boundaries were variously indicated on published maps. Speaking generally, the Canada of the eighteenth century included the Great Lakes and the country drained by their tributaries; the northern one-fourth of the present state of Illinois—that is, as much as lies north of the mouth of the Rock river; all the regions lying north of the northern watershed of the Missouri, and finally the valley of the upper Missouri itself." This would include Fillmore county.

But it is now necessary to go back two centuries previous

and consider the various explorations of the Mississippi upon which were based the claims of the European monarchs. Possibly the mouth of the Mississippi had been reached by Spaniards previous to 1541, possibly Hibernian missionaries as early as the middle of the sixth century, or Welch emigrants (Madoc), about 1170, discovered North America by way of the Gulf of Mexico, but historians give to Hernando de Soto and his band of adventurers the credit of having been the first white men to actually view the Mississippi on its course through the interior of the continent and of being the first ones to actually traverse its waters. De Soto sighted the Mississippi in May, 1541, at the head of an expedition in search of gold and precious stones. In the following spring, weary with hope long deferred, and worn out with his adventures, De Soto fell a victim to disease and died May 21, 1541. His followers, greatly reduced in number by sickness, after wandering about in a vain searching, built three small vessels and descended to the mouth of the Mississippi, being the first white men to reach the outlet of that great river from the interior. However, they were too weary and discouraged to lay claim to the country, and took no notes of the region through which they passed.

In 1554 James Cartier, a Frenchman, discovered the St. Lawrence, and explored it as far as the present site of Quebec. The next year he ascended the river to Mont Real, the lofty hill for which Montreal was named. Thereafter all the country drained by the St. Lawrence was claimed by the French. Many years later the King of France granted the "basin of the St. Lawrence and all the rivers flowing through it to the sea," to a company, whose leader was Champlain, the founder of Quebec, which became the capital of New France, whose then unexplored territory stretched westward to well within the boundaries of what is now Minnesota. In 1613-15 Champlain explored the Ottawa river, and the Georgian bay to Lake Huron, and missions were established in the Huron country. Missionaries and fur traders were the most active explorers of the new possessions. They followed the shores of the Great Lakes and then penetrated further and further into the wilderness. As they went they tried to make friends of the red men, established trading posts and raised the Christian cross. In 1641 Jogues and Raymbault, Jesuits, after a long and perilous voyage in frail canoes and bateaux, reached the Sault Ste. Marie, where they heard of a large river, the Mish-is-ip-e, flowing southward to the sea, and of a powerful Indian tribe dwelling near its headwaters. Stories of vast fertile plains, of numberless streams, of herds of buffalo, and of many people, in regions far to the

west and south, roused missionaries and traders anew, and the voyages and trips of the explorers became more frequent.

In 1659-60 Radisson and Groselliers, proceeding westward from Lake Superior, possibly entered what is now Minnesota. They spent some time in the "forty villages of the Dakotas," possibly in the vicinity of Mille Lac, and were, it has been contended, the first white men to set foot on the soil of this state. The contention that these adventurers spent a part of the years 1655-56 on Prairie Island, in the Mississippi just above Red Wing, is disputed by most historians, but still forms an interesting subject for study and conjecture.

Some writers also claim that the Frenchman, Sieur Nicollet, who should not be confused with the Nicollet of a later date, reached the Mississippi in 1639.

Rene Menard, a Jesuit missionary, reached the Mississippi in 1661 by way of Wisconsin. This was twelve years prior to its discovery by Marquette and Joliet, and to Menard historians in general give the honor of the discovery of the upper waters of the great river. Menard ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Black river, Wis., and was lost in a forest near the source of that stream while attempting to carry the gospel to the Hurons. His sole companion "called him and sought him, but he made no reply and could not be found." Some years later his camp kettle, robe and prayer book were seen in the possession of the Indians.

In the summer of 1663 the intelligence of the fate of Menard reached Quebec, and on August 8, 1665, Father Claude Allouez, who had anxiously waited two years for the means of conveyance, embarked for Lake Superior with a party of French traders and Indians. He visited the Minnesota shores of Lake Superior in the fall of 1665, established the Mission of the Holy Spirit at La Pointe, now in Wisconsin, and we are told "was the first to write 'Messipi,' the name of the great river of the Sioux country," as he heard it pronounced by the Chippewas, or rather as it sounded to his ears.

May 13, 1673, Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet, the former a priest and the latter the commander of the expedition, set out with five assistants, and on June 17 of the same year reached the Mississippi at the present site of Prairie du Chien, thence continuing down the river as far as the mouth of the Illinois, which they ascended, subsequently reaching the lakes.

In 1678, the Sieur De Luth, Daniel Graysolon, under commission from the governor of Canada, set out from Quebec, to explore the country west of the Lake Superior region. He was to take possession of it in the name of the king of France, and secure the trade of the native tribes. De Luth entered Minne-

sota in 1679, reaching the great Sioux village of Kathio at Mille Lac, on July 2. "On that day," he says, "I had the honor to plant His Majesty's arms, where a Frenchman never before had been."

La Salle, however, was the first to lay claim to the entire valley in the name of his sovereign. After achieving perpetual fame by the discovery of the Ohio river (1670-71), he conceived the plan of reaching the Pacific by way of the northern Mississippi, at that time unexplored and supposed to be a waterway connecting the two oceans. Frontenac, then governor-general of Canada, favored the plan, as did the king of France. Accordingly, gathering a company of Frenchmen, he pursued his way through the lakes, made a portage to the Illinois river, and, January 4, 1680, reached what is now Lake Peoria, in Illinois. From there, in February, he sent Hennepin and two companions to explore the upper Mississippi. During this voyage Hennepin and the men accompanying him were taken by the Indians as far north as Mille Lac. He also discovered St. Anthony Falls. Needing reinforcements, La Salle again returned to Canada. In January, 1682, with a band of followers, he started on his third and greatest expedition. February 6, they reached the Mississippi by way of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river, and March 6, discovered the three great passages by which the river discharges its waters into the Gulf. Two days later they reascended the river a short distance, to find a high spot out of the reach of inundations, and there erected a column and planted a cross, proclaiming with due ceremony the authority of the king of France. Thus did the whole Mississippi valley pass under the nominal sovereignty of the French monarchs.

The first definite claim to the upper Mississippi is embodied in a paper, still preserved, in the colonial archives of France, entitled "The record of the taking possession, in his majesty's name, of the Bay des Puants (Green bay), of the lake and rivers of the Outagamis and Maskoutins (Fox river and Lake Winnebago), of the river Ouiskonche (Wisconsin), and that of the Mississippi, the country of the Nadouesioux (the Sioux or Dakota Indians), the rivers St. Croix and St. Pierre (Minnesota), and other places more remote, May 8, 1689." (E. B. O'Callahan's translation in 1855, published in Vol. 9, page 418, "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.") This claim was made by Perrot, and the proclamation is supposed to have been issued from Fort St. Antonie (Anthony) near the present site of Trempealeau.

The previous proclamations of St. Lusson in 1671 at the outlet of Lake Superior, of De Luth, in 1679, at the west end of the same lake and at Mille Lac, had no definite bearing on the

land now embraced in Fillmore county, but nevertheless strengthened the French claims of sovereignty.

For over eight decades thereafter, the claims of France were, tacitly at least, recognized in Europe. In 1763 there came a change. Of this change A. N. Winchell (in Vol. 10, "Minnesota Historical Society Collections") writes: "The present eastern boundary of Minnesota, in part (that is so far as the Mississippi now forms its eastern boundary), has a history beginning at a very early date. In 1763, at the end of that long struggle during which England passed many a mile post in her race for world empire, while France lost nearly as much as Britain gained—that struggle, called in America, the French and Indian War—the Mississippi river became an international boundary. The articles of the definite treaty of peace were signed at Paris, on February 10, 1763. The seventh article made the Mississippi, from its source to about the 31st degree of north latitude, the boundary between the English colonies on this continent and the French Louisiana. The text of the article is as follows (Published in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 33, pages 121-126, March, 1763):

"VII. In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute to the limits of the British and French Territories on the continent of America; that for the future the confines between the domains of his Britannic majesty and those of his most Christian majesty (the king of France) in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn down the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lake Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea." The boundary from the source of the river farther north, or west, or in any direction, was not given; it was evidently supposed that it would be of no importance, for many centuries at least.

This seventh article of the definite treaty was identical with the sixth article in the preliminary treaty of peace signed by England, Spain and France, at Fontainbleau, November 3, 1762. On that same day, November 3, 1762, the French and Spanish representatives had signed another act by which the French king "ceded to his cousin of Spain, and his successors forever * * * all the country known by the name of Louisiana, including New Orleans and the island on which that city is situated." This agreement was kept secret, but when the definite treaty was signed at Paris the following year, this secret pact went into effect, and Spain at once became the possessor of the area described.

At the close of the Revolutionary War, the territory east of

the Mississippi, and north of the 31st parallel passed under the jurisdiction of the United States. By the definite treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, ratified at Paris, September 3, 1783, a part of the northern boundary of the United States, and the western boundary thereof was established, as follows: Commencing at the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods and from thence on a due course west to the Mississippi river (the Mississippi at that time was thought to extend into what is now Canada), thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said Mississippi river until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, page 82.)

In 1800, by the secret treaty of San (or Saint) Ildefonso (signed October 1), Spain reeeded the indefinite tract west of the Mississippi to France, which nation did not, however, take formal possession until three years later, when the formality was made necessary in order that the tract might be ceded to the United States. Napoleon, for France, sold the tract to the United States, April 30, 1803. The region comprehended in the "Louisiana Purchase," as this area was called, included all the country west of the Mississippi, except those portions west of the Rocky mountains actually occupied by Spain, and extended as far north as the British territory.

By an act of congress, approved October 31, 1803, the president of the United States was authorized to take possession of this territory, the act providing that "all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government, shall be vested in such person and persons, and shall be exercised in such maner as the president of the United States shall direct." (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 245.)

December 20, 1803, Louisiana was formally turned over to the United States at New Orleans, by M. Laussat, the civil agent of France, who a few days previous (November 30) had received a formal transfer from representatives of Spain.

Louisiana District. By an act of congress, approved March 26, 1804, all of that portion of the country ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, lying south of the 33d degree of north latitude, was organized as the territory of Orleans and all the residue thereof was organized as the district of Louisiana. That act contained the following provision: "The executive power now vested in the government of the Indiana territory shall extend to and be exercised in said district of Louisiana." The area set off as the territory of Orleans was admitted as the state of Louisiana in 1812.

Louisiana Territory. By an act of congress approved March

3, 1805, all that part of the country embraced in the district of Louisiana was organized as a territory, called the territory of Louisiana.

Missouri Territory. By an act of congress approved June 4, 1814, it was provided that the territory hitherto called Louisiana should be called Missouri, and was organized as a territory. The struggles in congress which led to the Missouri compromise; the agreement that all territory west of Missouri and north of parallel 36° 36′ should forever be free from the curse of slavery, and the final admission of Missouri with her present boundaries, by presidential proclamation, August 10, 1821, are outside of the province of this history. Sufficient is it to say here that this admission left the land to the northward, including Fillmore county, without a fountain head of territorial government from that date until June 28, 1834, when it was attached to Michigan.

It is now necessary to turn to the events that had been transpiring in regard to the government of the area east of the Mississippi and northwest of the Ohio river.

The Northwest Territory embraced all the area of the United States northwest of the Ohio river. By the provisions of the famous "Northwest Ordinance," passed July 13, 1787, by the Congress of the Confederation (the constitution of the United States not being adopted until September 17), the Ohio river became the boundary of the territory. The fifth article of the ordinance reads as follows: "Art. 5. There shall be formed in the said (i. e., the Northwest) territory, not less than three, nor more than five states, * * * the western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincents, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi." (See Executive Documents, 3d session, 46th congress, 1880-81, Vol. 25, Doc. 47, Part 4, pages 153-156; also United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 1, page 51, note a.)

Indiana Territory. The ordinance of 1787 provided for the organization of three "states" out of the Northwest Territory. That same year the constitution of the United States was adopted. In 1799, Ohio organized a territorial government, but the middle and western "states" did not have, separately, sufficient population to warrant the establishment of two separate governments. Congress solved the difficulty by uniting the two under the name of Indiana. The act was passed May 7, 1800, and its first section reads as follows: "Section 1—Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the fourth day of July next, all that part of the territory of

the United States, northwest of the Ohio river, which lies to the westward of a line beginning at the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called the Indiana Territory." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 58.) Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816.

Michigan Territory. By an act of congress passed June 11, 1805, Michigan territory was formed. The boundaries were described as follows: "All that part of the Indiana territory which lies north of a line drawn east from the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the said southerly bend through the middle of said lake to its northern extremity, and thence due north of the northern boundary of the United States, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, to be called Michigan." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 309,) Additions, noted further along in this article, were later made to this territory.

Illinois Territory. In 1809 settlers had come in so fast that there were sufficient citizens in Indiana territory to support two governments. Accordingly, the territory of Illinois was established, February 3, 1809, by the following enactment: "Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the first day of March, next, all that part of the Indiana territory which lies west of the Wabash river and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash river and Post Vincennes, due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, and be called Illinois." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 514.) Illinois was admitted as a state in 1818.

Michigan Territory. The population of Illinois continued to increase, and the people were eager for a state government. The southern portion was therefore granted statehood privileges, and the northern portion, mainly unoccupied, was cut off and added to the territory of Michigan, previously created. This transfer of territory was authorized in section 7 of the act passed April 18, 1818, enabling Illinois to form a state government and constitution. The terms of the act are as follows: "Section 7. And be it further enacted, That all that part of the territory of the United States lying north of the state of Indiana, and which was included in the former Indiana territory, together with that part of the Illinois territory which is situated north of, and not included within the boundaries prescribed by this act (viz., the boundaries of the state of Illinois) to the state thereby authorized

to be formed, shall be and hereby is, attached to and made a part of the Michigan territory." Thus matters remained for sixteen years.

Missouri, in the meantime, had been admitted as a state (1812), and the territory north of that state, and west of the Mississippi, was practically without organized authority from that year until 1834, when the increase of settlement made it advisable that the benefits of some sort of government should be extended to its area. Consequently, Michigan territory was extended to include this vast region. The act so enlarging Michigan territory passed congress June 28, 1834, in the following terms: "Be it enacted, etc., That all that part of the territory of the United States, bounded on the east by the Mississippi river, on the south by the state of Missouri, and a line drawn due west from the northwest corner of said state to the Missouri river; on the southwest and west by the Missouri river and the White Earth river, falling into the same, and on the north by the northern boundary of the United States, shall be, and hereby is, for the purpose of temporary government attached to and made a part of the territory of Michigan." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 4, page 701.) In less than two years, certain territory was set apart to form the proposed state of Michigan. This act passed congress April 20, 1836, but Michigan was not admitted until January 26, 1837. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, page 10-16.)

Wisconsin Territory. When Wisconsin territory was organized by an act of congress, April 20, 1836, all the Louisiana purchase north of the state of Missouri was placed under its jurisdiction. This included Fillmore county. The boundaries as given at that time were as follows: "Bounded on the east by a line drawn from the northeast corner of the state of Illinois through the middle of Lake Michigan to a point in the middle of said lake and opposite the main channel of Green Bay and through said channel and Green Bay to the mouth of the Menominee river, thence through the middle of the main channel of said river to that head of said river nearest the Lake of the Desert, thence in a direct line to the middle of said lake, thence through the middle of the main channel of the Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said lake, northwest, thence on the north with the said territorial line to the White Earth river (located in what is now Wood county, North Dakota). On the west by a line from the said boundary line, following down the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the Missouri river, and down the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to a point due west from the northwest corner of the state of Missouri; and on the south from said

point due east to the northwest corner of the state of Missouri, and thence with the boundaries of the states of Missouri and Illinois as already fixed by act of congress." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, page 18.) It is interesting to note in this connection that two sessions of the Wisconsin territorial legislature were held at what is now Burlington, Iowa.

Iowa Territory. The territory of Iowa was created by the act of congress, June 12, 1838, which act divided the territory of Wisconsin along the Mississippi river and named the western part, Iowa. The act provided: "That from and after the third day of July, next, all that part of the present territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due south from the head waters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial lines, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, be and constitute a separate territorial government, by the name of Iowa." The area embracing Fillmore county was included within these lines.

Iowa remained a territory from 1838 to 1846. The greater part of southern and southeastern Minnesota was within the jurisdiction of Clayton county. Henry H. Sibley was a justice of the peace in that county. The county seat was 250 miles distant from his home in Mendota, and his jurisdiction extended over a region of country, which, as he expressed it, was "as large as the empire of France." A convention of duly authorized representatives of the people remained in session at Iowa City from October 7 to November 1, 1844, and framed a state constitution. It was provided that the constitution adopted, together with any alterations which might subsequently be made by congress, should be submitted to the people of the territory for their approval or rejection at the township elections in April, 1845. The boundaries of the proposed new state, as defined in the constitution, were in part as follows: " * * * Thence up in the middle of the main channel of the river last mentioned (the Missouri) to the mouth of the Sioux or Calumet river; thence in a direct line to the middle of the main channel of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) river, where the Watonwan river — according to Nicollet's map—enters the same, thence down the middle of the main channel of said river to the middle of the Mississippi river; thence down the middle of said river to the place of beginning." This would have included in the state of Iowa Fillmore county, and, in fact, all the counties of what is now Minnesota that lie south and east of the Minnesota as far as Mankato, also including Faribault county and nearly all of Martin, the greater part of Blue Earth and portions of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Jackson.

Congress rejected these boundary lines, and March 3, 1845, in its enabling act, substituted the following description of the

proposed boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines river, in the middle of the Mississippi; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue Earth river; thence west along said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line 17° 30′ west of the meridian of Washington City; thence due south to the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri; thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects with the Des Moines river; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning." Thus the southern boundary of Minnesota would have been on a line due east from the present city of Mankato to the Mississippi river and due west from the same point to a point in Brown county. This would have included in Iowa all but a small fraction of the counties of Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca and Blue Earth, portions of Brown, Watonwan and Martin; and all of Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. This reduction in its proposed territory was not pleasing to those citizens of Iowa, who wished the state to have its boundaries to include the Minnesota river from the Blue Earth to the Mississippi and the Mississippi from the Minnesota river to the Missouri state line. This changing in the boundary was really a political measure, a part of those battles in congress over free and slave states which preceded the Civil War. The boundaries as proposed by congress were rejected by the people of Iowa after a bitter campaign. August 4, 1846, congress passed a second enabling act, which was accepted by the people by a narrow margin of 456, the vote being 9,492 for and 9,036 against. This second act placed the northern boundary of Iowa still further south, but added territory to the west. The northern boundary of Iowa, as described in the enabling act, was identical with the parallel of 43° 30′ north, from the Big Sioux river eastward to the Mississippi. This, with the exception of the short distance from the Big Sioux river to the present western boundary of Minnesota, is the present southern boundary of our state. Minnesota's southern boundary, as thus described, was carefully surveyed and marked within six years of its acceptance by Iowa. The work was authorized March 3, 1849, and two appropriations of $1,500 each were soon made. The survey was completed during the years 1849 to 1852, at a total cost of $32,277.73. Although the work was done with the best instruments then known, an error of twenty-three chains, evidently due to carelessness, was discovered within a year. Iowa was admitted as a state December 28,1846.

Wisconsin State. Wisconsin soon wished to become a state. The northwestern boundary provoked considerable discussion both in congress and in the two constitutional conventions which

were called. There were some who wished to include all the remaining portion of the northwest territory within the boundaries of the new proposed state. The two prevailing coteries, however, were the ones between whom the fight really centered. One body wished the northwestern boundary of the new state (Wisconsin) to extend up the Mississippi as far as the Rum river, where the city of Anoka is now situated, thence northeastwardly to the first rapids of the St. Louis river and thence to Lake Superior. The residents of the St. Croix valley, and those living on the east side of the Mississippi, between the St. Croix and the Rum river, constituted the other party and objected to being included in the proposed state of Wisconsin. They declared that they were separated from the settled portions of Wisconsin by hundreds of miles of barren land, and still more greatly separated by a difference in the interests and character of the inhabitants. They proposed that the northwest boundary of the new state should be a line drawn due south from Shagwamigan bay, on Lake Superior, to the intersection of the main Chippewa river, and from thence down the middle of said river to its debouchure into the Mississippi. Residents of the district affected and also about Fort Snelling and on the west bank of the Mississippi farther up joined in a memorial to congress, citing the grave injustice that would be done the proposed territory of Minnesota if it were left without a single point on the Mississippi below St. Anthony's falls, the limit of navigation. Among those who signed this memorial were H. H. Sibley and Alexander Faribault. The result of the controversy was a compromise adopting a middle line along the St. Croix and St. Louis rivers.

The enabling act for the state of Wisconsin, approved August 6, 1846, provided: "That the people of the territory of Wisconsin be and they are hereby authorized to form a constitution and state government * * * with the following boundaries, to-wit: * * * thence through the center of Lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Louis river, thence up the main channel of said river to the first rapids in the same, above the Indian village, according to Nicollet's map; thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix; thence down the main channel of said river to the Mississippi; thence down the main channel of said river to the northwest corner of the state of Illinois, thence due east * * *." This is the first and incidentally the present description of Minnesota's eastern boundary. (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 9, page 56.)

The convention that framed the constitution of Wisconsin in 1847-48 strongly desired the Rum river as their western boundary. After accepting the boundary chosen by congress the convention recommended a line which, if agreeable to congress, should

replace the one in the enabling act. The proposed boundary, which was rejected, was described as follows. Leaving the aforesaid boundary line at the first rapids of the St. Louis river, thence in a direct line, bearing southwestwardly to the mouth of the Iskodewabo or Rum river, where the same empties into the Mississippi river, thence down the main channel of the said Mississippi river to the aforesaid boundary. (Charters and Constitutions of the United States, Part ii, page 2030.)

Minnesota Territory. The events which led up to the establishing of Minnesota as a territory can be given but brief mention here. Sufficient is it to say that for three years after the admission of Iowa (in 1846) the area that is now Minnesota, west of the Mississippi, was practically a no-man's land. December 18, 1846, Morgan L. Martin, delegate from Wisconsin territory, gave notice to the house of representatives that "at an early day" he would ask leave to introduce a bill establishing the territorial government of Minnesota. The name, which is the Indian term for what was then the river St. Peter (Pierre) and has now become its official designation was, it is believed, applied to the proposed territory at the suggestion of Joseph R. Brown. During its consideration by congress the bill underwent various changes. As reported back to the house, the name "Minnesota" had been changed by Stephen A. Douglas to "Itasca." Mr. Martin immediately moved that the name "Minnesota" be placed in the bill in place of "Itasca." "Chippewa," "Jackson" and "Washington" were also proposed. After many motions, counter motions and amendments, "Minnesota" was placed in the bill, which with a minor change passed the house. In the senate it was rejected. A second attempt was made two years later. January 10, 1848, Stephen A. Douglas gave due notice to the senate that "at a future day" he would introduce a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. He brought in the bill February 23. It was several times read, was amended, referred to committee and discussed, but congress adjourned August 14 without taking ultimate action on the proposition.

In the meantime Wisconsin was admitted to the Union May 29, 1848, and the western half of what was then St. Croix county was left outside the new state. The settled portions of the area thus cut off from Wisconsin by its admission to statehood privileges were in the southern part of the peninsula of land lying between the Mississippi and the St. Croix.

The people of this area were now confronted with a serious problem. As residents of the territory of Wisconsin they had enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in the United States. By the creation of the state of Wisconsin they were disfranchised and left without the benefits of organized government. Thus,

Stillwater, which had been the governmental seat of a growing county (St. Croix), was left outside the pale of organized law. Legal minds disagreed on the question of whether the minor civil officers, such as justices of the peace, created under the territorial organization, were still qualified to exercise the authority of their positions. At a meeting held at St. Paul, in July, 1848, the citizens of that (then) village considered the question of the formation of a new territory. August 5 a meeting of citizens of the area west of the St. Croix was held at Stillwater, and it was decided to call a general convention at that place, August 26, 1848, for a three-fold purpose: 1—To elect a territorial delegate to congress. 2—To organize a territory with a name other than Wisconsin. 3—To determine whether the laws and organization of the old territory of Wisconsin were still in effect now that a part of that territory was organized as a state. In the call for this meeting, the signers called themselves, "We, the undersigned citizens of Minnesota territory." The meeting was held pursuant to the call. Action was taken in regard to the first proposition by the election of H. H. Sibley, who was authorized to proceed to Washington and use such efforts as were in his power to secure the organization of the territory of Minnesota. In regard to the second proposition a memorial was addressed to the president of the United States, stating the reasons why the organization of Minnesota territory was necessary. The third proposition presented technical points worthy of the attention of the wisest legal minds. The state of Wisconsin had been organized, but the territory of Wisconsin had not been abolished. Was not, therefore, the territory still in existence, and did not its organization and its laws still prevail in the part of the territory that had not been included in the state? If territorial government was in existence would it not give the residents thereof a better standing before the nation in their desire to become Minnesota territory? Might not this technicality give the delegate a seat in congress when otherwise he must, as simply the representative of an unorganized area, make his requests in the lobby and to the individual members? John Catlin, who had been secretary of the territory of Wisconsin before the organization of that state, declared that the territory still existed in the area not included in the organized state and that he was the acting governor. Accordingly, the people of the cut-off portion organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin," and named a day for the election of a delegate. In the closely contested election, held October 30, 1848, Sibley won out against Henry M. Rice and accordingly made his way to Washington, technically from the "Territory of Wisconsin," actually as a representative of the proposed territory of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, indeed, Sibley, living at Mendota, had ceased to be

a citizen of the territory of Wisconsin in 1838, when Iowa territory was created, and was a resident of the part of Iowa territory which the organization of the state of Iowa had left without a government, rather than of that territory in question (between the Mississippi and the St. Croix) which the admission of Wisconsin as a state had left without a government. Sibley was, however, after much opposition, admitted to congress and given a seat January 15, 1849. He at once set about securing friends for the proposition to create Minnesota territory. December 4, 1848, a few days previous to Sibley's admission to congress, Stephen A. Douglas had announced that it was his intention to introduce a new bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. Like the previous attempt, this bill underwent various vicissitudes. As passed, March 3, 1849, the act creating the territory read as follows: "Be it enacted. * * * That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning in the Mississippi river at a point where the line of 43° and 30′ of north latitude crosses the same, thence running due west on said line, which is the northern boundary of the state of Iowa, to the northwest corner of the said state of Iowa; thence southerly along the western boundary of said state to the point where said boundary strikes the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain; thence east and south of east along the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain to Lake Superior; thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior; thence along the western boundary of the state of Wisconsin to the Mississippi river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning, and the same is hereby erected into a temporary government by the name of the territory of Minnesota."

The executive power of the territory of Minnesota was vested in a governor (appointed by the president, whose term of office was four years, unless sooner removed by the president), who was also superintendent of Indian affairs. The legislative power was vested in a governor and a legislative assembly, consisting of a council of nine members, whose term of office was two years, and a house of representatives of eighteen members, whose term of office was one year. It was provided that the number of members in the council and the house might be increased by the legislative assembly from time to time in proportion to the increase

in population, but that the whole number should not exceed fifteen councillors and thirty-nine representatives. It was provided that the first election should be held at such time and place and be conducted in such manner as the governor should appoint and direct, and that the persons thus elected to the legislative assembly should meet at such place, and on such days as the governor should appoint, but thereafter the time and place and manner of holding and conducting all elections by the people, and the apportioning the representatives in the several counties and districts, to the council and house of representatives, according to the population, should be prescribed by law, as well as the day of the commencement of the regular sessions of the legislative assembly, but that no session should exceed sixty days.

Every white male inhabitant above the age of twenty-one, who was a resident of the territory at the time of the passage of the act organizing the same, was entitled to vote and eligible to office at the election. But the qualification of voters and of holding office at all subsequent elections should be such as should be prescribed by the legislative assembly. It was provided by the act that all laws passed by the legislative assembly should be submitted to congress, and if disapproved by it, should be null and of no effect. The laws in force in the territory of Wisconsin after the date of the admission of the state of Wisconsin were continued to be valid and in operation in the territory of Minnesota so far as not incompatible with the provisions of the act of organization of the territory of Minnesota, subject to be altered, modified or repealed by the governor and legislative assembly of said territory. All justices of the peace, constables, sheriffs and all other judicial and ministerial officers who were in office within the limits of the territory at the time of law organizing the territory was approved were authorized and required to continue to exercise and perform the duties of their respective offices as officers of the territory of Minnesota temporarily and until they, or others, should be appointed and qualified in the manner therein described or until their offices should be abolished.

The governor was given the veto power, and the council and house could pass a bill over his veto by a two-thirds vote. The judicial power of the territory was vested in a supreme court, district court, probate court and in justices of the peace. The supreme court consisted of a chief justice and two associate justices, appointed by the president, whose term of office was four years and whose salary was $1,800 a year.

The territory was by the act of organization required to be divided into three judicial districts, and the district court to be held therein by one of the judges of the supreme court at such

times and places as might be prescribed by law, and the judges thereof were required to reside in the districts assigned to them. The clerks of said courts were appointed by the judges thereof.

The United States officers of the territory were a governor, secretary, chief justice, two associate justices, attorney and marshal, appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the senate of the United States. The governor received a salary of $1,500 a year as governor and $1,000 a year as superintendent of Indian affairs. The chief justice and associate justices and secretary received a salary of $1,800 a year, and the members of the legislative assembly $3 a day during their attendance upon the sessions thereof and $3 each day for every twenty miles traveled going to and returning therefrom.

State of Minnesota. The people of the territory of Minnesota were not long content with a territorial government. In the words of A. N. Winchell, "December 24, 1856, the delegate from the territory of Minnesota introduced a bill to authorize the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government. The bill limited the proposed state on the west by the Red River of the North and the Big Sioux river. It was referred to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was chairman. January 31, 1857, the chairman reported a substitute, which differed from the original bill in no essential respect except in regard to the western boundary. The change there consisted in adopting a line through Traverse and Big Stone lakes, due south from the latter to the Iowa line. The altered boundary cut off a narrow strip of territory, estimated by Mr. Grow to contain between five and six hundred square miles. Today the strip contains such towns as Sioux Falls, Watertown and Brookings. The substitute had a stormy voyage through congress, especially in the senate, but finally completed the trip on February 25, 1857."

The enabling act, as passed and approved February 26, 1857, defined the boundaries of Minnesota as follows: "Be it enacted, * * * That the inhabitants of that portion of the territory of Minnesota, which is embraced with the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the point in the center of the main channel of the Red River of the North, where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions crosses the same; thence up the main channel of said river to that of the Bois des Sioux river; thence (up) the main channel of said river to Lake Traverse; then up the center of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the head of Big Stone lake; thence through its center to its outlet; thence by a due south line to the north line of the state of Iowa; thence east along the north-

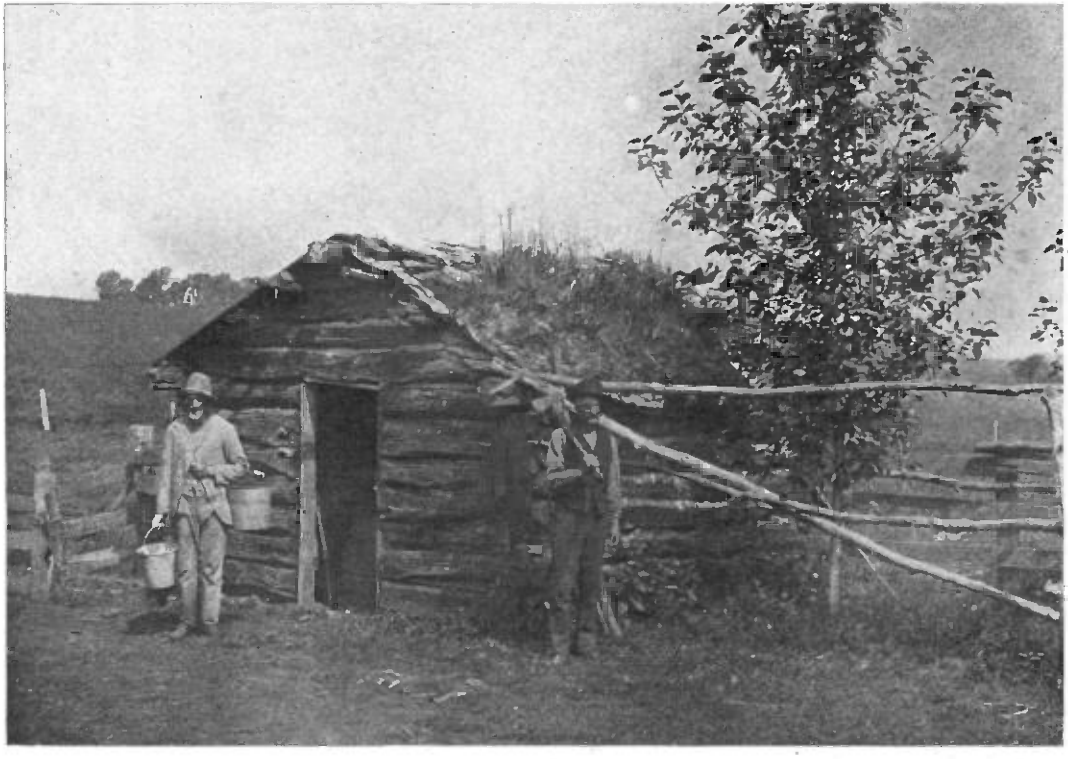
ern boundary of said state to the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of said river and following the boundary line of the state of Wisconsin, until the same intersects the St. Louis river; thence down said river to and through Lake Superior, on the boundary line of Wisconsin and Michigan, until it intersects the dividing line between the United States and the British possessions; thence up Pigeon river and following said dividing line to the place of beginning; be and the same are thereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, by the name of the state of Minnesota, and to come into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, according to the federal constitution."

These boundaries were accepted without change and are the boundaries of the state at the present time. The state was admitted May 11, 1858.

It will therefore be seen that the territorial claim of title to Fillmore county was first embraced in the papal grant to Spain, May 4, 1493. It was subsequently included in the indefinite claims made by Spain to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies; by the English to lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements, and by the French to lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements. The first definite claim to territory now embracing Fillmore county was made by La Salle at the mouth of the Mississippi, March 8, 1682, in the name of the king of France, and the second (still more definite) by Perrot near the present site of Trempealeau, Wis., May 8, 1689. This was also a French claim. France remained in tacit authority until February 10, 1763, when, upon England's acknowledging the French authority to lands west of the Mississippi, France, by a previous secret agreement, turned her authority over to Spain. October 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France, but France did not take formal possession until November 30, 1803, and almost immediately, December 20, 1803, turned it over to the United States, the Americans having purchased it from Napoleon April 30 of that year.

March 26, 1804, the area that is now Fillmore county was included in Louisiana district as a part of Indiana and so remained until March 3, 1805. From March 3, 1805, to June 4, 1812, it was a part of Louisiana territory. From June 4, 1812, until August 10, 1820, it was a part of Missouri territory. From August 10, 1821, until June 28, 1834, it was outside the pale of all organized government, except that congress had general jurisdiction. From June 28, 1834, to April 20, 1836, it was a part of Michigan territory. From April 20, 1836, to June 12, 1838, it was a part of Wisconsin territory. From June 12, 1838, to December

28, 1846, it was a part of the territory of Iowa and was included in the boundaries at first proposed for the state of Iowa. From December 28, 1846, to March 3, 1849, it was again without territorial affiliation. From March 3, 1849, to May 11, 1858, it was a part of Minnesota territory, and on the latter date became an integral part of that sovereign state.



HARMONY LANDMARK

CHAPTER V.

EARLY EXPLORATION.

No Evidence That Earliest Explorers Reached Fillmore County—Interesting Speculation as to Whether La Hontan Meant His "Long River" as an Exaggeration of the Root River—Albert Miller Lea and the United States Dragoons Cross Fillmore County—Early Maps of the Root River—Early Surveys.

From time immemorial until the Indians relinquished their rights, the territory now embraced in Fillmore county was the hunting ground of the Red Men. As there were, in the days of the early explorers, no recorded permanent Indian villages here; and little of vital geographic interest in the sweep of country now embraced in southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa; none of the earlier adventurers, so far as we know, visited Fillmore county. Hennepin with his two companions, Pickard du Guy (Auguelle) and Michael Accault (Ako), who explored the upper Mississippi in 1680; Perrot, who had trading posts about Lake Pepin as early as 1685; LeSueur, who built a fort near Red Wing on Prairie Island in 1695, and one near Mankato in 1700; Jonathan Carver, who ascended the upper Mississippi in 1766; Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike, who explored the upper Mississippi in 1805-06; Colonel Henry Leavenworth, who in 1819 established at Mendota in what is now Dakota county, the fort which was afterwards moved across the Minnesota river and became Fort Snelling; Major Stephen H. Long, who explored the upper Mississippi in 1817 and 1823; Governor Lewis Cass, who in 1820 explored the principal sources of the Mississippi and then descended the river; William Morrison, who visited Lake Itasca in the winter of 1803-04, and is usually credited as the discoverer of the source of the Mississippi; Henry R. Schoolcraft, who in 1832 explored northern Minnesota; George Featherstone, who made a geological survey of the Minnesota valley in 1835; George Catlin, who made a faithful study of the Indians of Minnesota; Jean Nicollet, whose activities in the thirties and forties contributed much to Minnesota geography, and David Dale Owen, who explored large portions of the state in 1847, '48, '49 and '50, and whose names are honored as the early explorers of Minnesota, all failed, so far as we know, to make Fillmore county a visit.

It is possible that missionaries, renegades, traders or hunters visited this region, in the days of the early exploration, but of this, historians have no record or knowledge, although those who enjoy speculation and conjecture think it quite possible the Frenchmen from the posts of Perrot on Lake Pepin, the stockades at Frontenac, or the forts at Prairie Island and Mankato may have come here after game. The mouth and the lower course of the Root river (then called the Kicapous river) were mapped as early as 1703, and as the outlet of this stream into the Mississippi was remarkable in that it was filled with rushes and flowed with almost no current, it is not unlikely that many explorers sailed up Root river, but whether any reached Fillmore county, no one at present knows.

The suggestion by N. H. Winchell, that La Hontan's "Long River" may be simply an exaggeration of the Root river is most interesting. La Hontan is now entirely discredited by historians. Whether the writings of this adventurer are purely fiction, written after a talk with explorers and a perusal of old maps, or whether the superstructure of marvelous adventures and amazing experiences is built on a skeleton of actual journeys by La Hontan has never been decided.

The "Travels" of Baron La Hontan appeared in 1703, both at London and at Hague, and were as salable and readable as those of Hennepin, which were on the counters of booksellers at the same time. La Hontan, a Gascon by birth, and in style of writing, when about seventeen years of age, arrived in Canada, in 1683, as a private soldier, and was with Governor De la Barre in his expedition of 1684, toward Niagara, and was also in the battle near Rochester, New York, in 1687, at which De Luth and Perrot, explorers of Minnesota, were present. In 1688 he appears to have been sent to Fort St. Joseph, which was built by De Luth, on the St. Clare river, near the site of Fort Gratiot, Michigan. It is possible that he may have accompanied Perrot to Lake Pepin, who came about this time to reoccupy his old post.

In his "Travels" La Hontan alleged that on October 23, 1688, after a trip from the Great Lakes across a part of what is now Wisconsin, and down the Wisconsin valley he reached the Mississippi river, and, ascending, on November 3 he entered into a river, a tributary from the west, that was almost without a current, and at its mouth filled with rushes. He then describes a journey of 500 miles up this stream. He declares he found upon its banks three great nations, the Eokoros, Esanapes, and Gnaesitares (the Mozeemlek being to the westward), and because he ascended it for sixty days, he named it Long river. For years his wondrous story was believed, and geographers hastened to trace it upon their maps. But in time the voyage up the Long

river was discovered to be a fabrication. There is extant a letter of Bobe, a priest of the Congregation of the Mission, dated Versailles, March 15, 1716, and addressed to De L'Isle, the geographer of the Academy of Sciences at Paris, which exposes the deception. He writes: "It seems to me that you might give the name of Bourbonia to these vast countries which are between the Missouri, Mississippi, and the Western ocean. Would it not be well to efface that great river which La Hontan says he discovered? All the Canadians, and even the governor general, have told me that this river is unknown, If it existed, the French, who are on the Illinois, and at Ouabache, would know of it. The last volume of the 'Lettres Edifiantes' of the Jesuits, in which there is a very fine relation of the Illinois country, does not speak of it, any more than the letters which I received this year, which tell wonders of the beauty and goodness of the country. They send me some quite pretty work, made by the wife of one of the principal chiefs. They tell me, that among the Scioux, of the Mississippi, there are always Frenchmen trading; that the course of the Mississippi is from north to west, and from west to south; that it is known that toward the source of the Mississippi there is a river in the highlands that leads to the western ocean; that the Indians say that they have seen bearded men with caps, who gather gold-dust on the seashore, but that it is very far from this country, and that they pass through many nations unknown to the French. I have a memoir of La Motte Cadillac, formerly governor of Missilimackinack, who says that if St. Peters (Minnesota) river is ascended to its source they will, according to all appearance, find in the highland another river leading to the Western ocean. For the last two years I have tormented exceedingly the governor-general, M. Raudot, and M. Duche, to move them to discover this ocean. If I succeed, as I hope, we shall hear tidings before three years, and I shall have the pleasure and consolation of having rendered a good service to geography, to religion and to the state."

Charlevoix, in his History of New France, alluding to La Hontan's voyage, writes: "The voyage up the Long river is as fabulous as the Island of Barrataria, of which Sancho Panza was governor. Nevertheless, in France and elsewhere, most people have received these memoirs as the fruits of the travels of a gentleman who wrote badly, although quite lightly, and who had no religion, but who described pretty sincerely what he had seen. The consequence is that the compilers of historical and geographical dictionaries have almost always followed and cited them in preference to more faithful records."

Even in modern times, Nicollet, employed by the United States to explore the upper Mississippi, has the following in his report:

"Having procured a copy of La Hontan's book, in which there is a roughly made map of his Long river, I was struck with the resemblance of its course as laid down with that of Cannon river, which I had previously sketched in my own field-book. I soon convinced myself that the principal statements of the baron in reference to the country and the few details he gives of the physical character of the river, coincide remarkably with what I had laid down as belonging to Cannon river. Then the lakes and swamps corresponded; traces of Indian villages mentioned by him might be found by a growth of wild grass that propagates itself around all old Indian settlements."

N. H. Winchell in his "Aborigines of Minnesota" says: "It (the Long river of La Hontan) comes nearest to the region of the Root river. The Mozeemlek are far west on a river that flows west, separated from the sources of the Long river by a mountain range. In the Journal (Travels), La Hontan says he entered the mouth of Long river November 3 (1688) and that on the ninth he reached the villages of the Eokoros (that is, after six days' travel); therefore the Eokoros were likely to be Iowas. They were then at war with the Esanapes, sixty leagues (180 miles) higher up the river. They had 20,000 warriors, which number was greater before the war which they had waged with the Nadouesses (Sioux), the Pinamoha, and the Esanapes. They lived in long huts, round at the top, made of reeds and bullrushes, interlaced and cemented with a sort of 'fat-earth' (that is, clay).

"The Esanapes were very numerous and powerful. The village was large and like a city, the houses almost like ovens, but large and high, and constructed as above described. The Gnacsitares were not acquainted with the peace pipe. The Long river had 'little trouts' which they fished out for food."

Prof. Winchell further writes: "After having read attentively the narrative of La Hontan, and examined his map accompanying it, I reached the following conclusions:

"1. He entered the Root river in Houston county, Minnesota, that being the only stream with rushes (reeds) at its mouth, and also large and long enough to give basis to his story, and having trout; though I do not feel satisfied that he entered any stream at all.

"2. There is a naturalness in the yarn, in its general course and in its details, that almost preclude disputing its truthfulness—except what he says about the Mozeemlek slaves—which convinces me either that he is trying to sketch a veritable trip up the Long river or is an adept at mixing fact and fiction, making the whole to appear fact.

"3. All that he says, and the map which he draws of the Gnacsitares and the Mozeemlek, seems to me to be largely ficti-

tious, or having for a basis of fact only some general and crude statements of the natives, and could have been framed in with imaginary fiction by any unscrupulous reporter who cared not for the truth, and expected that his lies would not be detected, at least not until after his death, but was determined to weave a wonderful and book-selling yarn.

"4. He could not have been beyond the limits of Minnesota, and so far as his facts are amenable to geographic verification, they are limited to Minnesota. They can be verified in that area. He had a compass and an 'astrolabe,' and he makes a map that shows a stream nearly direct from the west. He shows many islands, but the Root river is almost free from islands, and does not issue from a lake. Its distances are enormously too great and cannot be condensed into the limits of Root river.

"5. The names given the Indian tribes are probably invented, or manufactured by the adventurer in some such manner as Schoolcraft obtained 'Itasca,' but from the natives' dialects instead of from Latin.

"6. This fictitious character being forced upon the reader by the pursual of his Long river trip, is necessarily extended, though with much regret on the part of the student of early northwestern travels, to his trip down the Mississippi, up the Missouri to Osages, and to the Arkansas, and hence to the whole book. In short, the reader is more than once compelled to doubt the statements made as to the lives and customs of the 'savages,' and hence to class the work as a tissue of falsehood, strung on so much fact as the author could command from his knowledge of the country."

The first visit by white men to the present area of Fillmore county, of which any record is found, was made in July, 1835, by Companies B, H, and I, of the First United States Dragoons, under the command of Lieut.-Col. Stephen W. Kearney, the topographer of the expedition being Lieut. Albert Miller Lea.

The Dragoons, created by congress in March, 1833, and organized for the more perfect defense of the frontier, were a fine body of men who had been enlisted from nearly every state in the Union in the summer months of 1833. The commanding officer of this regiment of ten companies was Col. Henry Dodge, a most valiant soldier.

The trip, which has so much interest to the people of Fillmore county, was a march of 1,100 miles by Companies B, H, and I, under Lieut.-Col. Stephen W. Kearney. On June 7, 1835, this detachment left Fort Des Moines and marched between the Des Moines and Skunk rivers to near the mouth of the Boone river. Then taking a northeasterly course across Iowa, they entered what is now Minnesota, crossed Mower and Fillmore

counties, and reached Wabashaw's village on the Mississippi at practically the present site of Winona. After remaining there about a week, the companies marched somewhat to the south of westwardly, through a part of southern Minnesota, then turned southward, and entering Iowa in what is now Kossuth county, reaching the Des Moines river safely. After crossing the river, they descended it on the lower side and reached Fort Des Moines on August 19, 1835, without the loss of a single horse or man. Lieut. Albert Miller Lea, attached to Company I, of the expedition, was the official topographer, and in his honor Nicollet afterwards named a previously undesignated lake which the expedition passed in the present Freeborn county.

Lea's book, "Notes on Wisconsin Territory," was published in 1836 by Henry S. Tanner, of Philadelphia. It contains fifty-three pages and a map of the Iowa region. This work is an excellent description of that part of the original territory of Wisconsin lying west of the Mississippi river. It was this region that the book christened the "Iowa District." The map shows the route of the Dragoons and is an indispensable aid in correlating the Dragoon's track with modern Iowa and southern Minnesota geography.

In a letter from Corsicana, Tex., June 7, 1877, Lea wrote to the editor of the Freeborn county "Standard," at Albert, Lea as follows:

"June 7, 1835, a detachment of the First Regiment U. S. Dragoons left their winter quarters at the head of the lower rapids of the Mississippi (where now stands the village of Montrose) under orders to show themselves to the Sioux Indians in the region west of Lake Pepin.

"After organization at Jefferson Branch, twelve miles below St. Louis, the whole regiment, under Col. Henry Dodge, made a campaign to the Pawnee towns on the upper Red river in the summer of 1834, and in the autumn returned to Fort Gibson, where the command was divided, headquarters going to Fort Leavenworth, and three companies, under Lieut.-Col. S. W. Kearney, going to some log huts prepared for them on the west bank of the Mississippi, styled in order 'Fort Des Moines.' The captains of these companies were H. V. Sumner, Nathan Boone and Jesse Brown. Men and horses were in a pitiable condition on arrival. The writer joined the command about the first of November, and first entered duty with troops on actual service; and during the winter was sent to bring up the convalescents of the sick left at Fort Gibson. Recruits of men and horses made up the command so that 164 all told were mustered for the expedition, which was started as soon as the grass would feed the horses. Our outfit was meagre enough, and is noteworthy only as con-

trasting with the full equipment of the expeditions of latter days. Captain Sumner being absent, his company was officered entirely by Second Lieut. H. S. Turner, now a respected citizen of St. Louis. Captain Boone, the youngest son of Daniel Boone, having been on detached service, had his company prepared for the campaign by the care of Lieutenant Lea, who had been especially assigned to that duty, but he took command on the march, and was especially valuable for his knowledge of woodcraft, and as guide. Captain Brown, being detached, his company was in the sole charge of Lieutenant Lea, who acted as ordnance officer.

"Five wagons drawn by four mules each, with pack horses, furnished us transportation, and we had some beef cattle on foot. Lieutenant-Colonel Kearney commanded in person, Lieut. J. H. Burgwin was surgeon. The prairie was still very wet, our teams were bad, most of our men unskilled, and we had a hard time for some weeks. But soon strawberries began to ripen, and we had them in superabundance for several weeks, the season advancing with us in our northward march.

"Our route lay along the divide between the Mississippi and the Des Moines. The country was then wholly uninhabited, save by a few Indians. A narrow strip along the lower Iowa was opened to settlers by a treaty made at Rock Island the previous year. A few Indians joined us as hunters and interpreters. At the head of the small river that joins the Mississippi below Burlington, we saw a few buffalo and killed one near a small lake, the head of that stream, and noted down as 'Swan Lake.' As there were no topographic officers with the command, and as the writer had been some years on duty, he undertook, without orders, to make a rude survey and sketch of the country traversed by using a pocket compass, a watch, and a sketch book, the distance being computed by time and rate of marching. Streams and places were named on this sketch, and most of them traversed still bear the names thus assigned.

"On the waters of the Iowa, we again found buffalos, killed some, and caught a calf, which ran through the column on the march, fell into a dry creek bed and was caught by the hand of one of my men. These two small herds were the only buffalos seen by our command during the whole march. Desiring to visit Wabashaw's band, the officers directed our course toward Lake Pepin, and about the first of July we encamped on a small rivulet which empties into a river that enters the Mississippi four miles away, just below Lake Pepin. This river, from the obstructing drift in it was dubbed 'Embarrassed River,' in usage of French travelers with whom I had previously associated in a survey of Lake Harm. This name, I understand, has been gradually changed into 'Zumbro,' and the facts are cited here as a curious

illustration of the changes induced in names of place, through translations and varied spellings in different languages. On this little rivulet we remained three days, and during that time our whole force of 164 men had as much speckled trout as we desired, taken from that single brook only a step wide. One of my men took 130 in four hours with an improvised line and hook.

"Early in July we moved camp to the bank of the Mississippi below the lake in sight of Wabashaw's village, which we visited, and there found burials in elevation on trees and scaffolds. We were in view of the 'Montaique qui Trempealeau,' on the east side of the lake. Whilst at this camp we were aroused by a passing steamboat, a rare occurrence at that date, having aboard Maj. Gen. Robert Peterson, of Philadelphia, at whose house I had met President Jackson two years before. Here also Captain Brown joined us and took command of his company. Wabashaw's people were scattered in hunting and fishing. But the old chief, with a few attendants, visited the commissioned officers, and expressed his gratification by an invitation to a dog feast, which was declined, as were also other honors, more distinguished than delicate.

"From this camp we bore westward and eventually reached Fort Des Moines in safety.

"A map of the country from the Missouri line to St. Peter, and from the Mississippi to the Missouri river was made out from such scant materials as I had, including a minute plot of the wanderings made during the summer, and it was sent to the adjutant general. The next spring, having resigned my commission in the army, I obtained a copy of this map, wrote out a description of the country embraced, and had it published by H. S. Tanner, of Philadelphia, under the title of 'Notes on the Iowa District of Wisconsin Territory.' The name of 'Iowa' was thus first applied to that region, and afterward adopted by congress in organizing the 'Territory of Iowa.'"

EARLY MAPS.

The first appearance of the Root river on any map was in 1703, when the published map of Guilliaume De L'Isle showed the course of the "R. des Kicapous," flowing into the Mississippi from the west. This water, which historians have identified as the Root river, is sketched as a large stream, and is continued westward by a dotted line to a supposed union with the "Riviere Longe," of La Hontan. This fictitious "River Long," of La Hontan, is made to be a westward continuation of the Des Moines river with a conjectural connection with the "Kicapous," which as just stated has been identified as the Root river.

La Hontan's map appeared in 1704. As his works are now

believed to have been fiction, and his map merely a garbled copy of previous maps, it is not a matter of vital import whether or not he intended that his "River Long" should be merely an exaggeration of the Root river. As before stated, N. H. Winchell believes that the Root river flows into the Mississippi at about the place where La Hontan describes the mouth of his Long river. Nicollet believed La Hontan's river to be the Cannon, while De L'Isle drew it as a western extension of the Des Moines.

Sheet Number 5, of Popple's Atlas of the British Empire in America, published in 1733, shows the River Quicapon, which is probably intended to be the stream now called Root river.

Another map evidently of Italian origin, which bears neither date nor author's name, but which was evidently published in the latter years of the eighteenth century (1750 and 1778 are both conjectural dates) has a river "Quikapous," which from its size and location is evidently the Root river.

The map of Sr. Robert de Vaugondy, probably published in 1775, shows the "R. des Quicabou," evidently the Root river. The "Quicapous" also appears on the map by Le Sr. d'Anville, published in 1775, and the "Quicapoux" on the "Carte des Cinq grands Lacs du Canada" (Map of the Five Great Lakes of Canada), probably published in 1762, but of which no author or date are given.

A map published by Robert Sayer and J. Bennett probably in 1775 gives the Root river as the "Macaret" river.

But in a map published by J. Hinton, probably about 1776, the old general form of the name is resumed, and the Root river appears as the "Quicapous."

The same name for the Root river is also used in the map which accompanies the stories of Carver's travels published in 1779.

In Carver's own map, of 1781, the Root river is named the "Yallow." The map of the United States of North America, etc., engraved by William Faden in 1793, calls the Root river the "Quicapoo," but the map published by Laurie and Whittle in 1794 uses the name "Maceret."

The map compiled by General Collott to accompany his travels in North America in 1774-76, engraved in 1805, calls the Root river the "Yellow R.," but incorrectly gives its source as a lake.

The map of 1806 compiled by M. Lewis and copied by Nicholas King, gives the "Carneille" river in the present location of the Root river.

The Root river has borne its present name since about 1806-07, when it appears on a chart entitled "A map of Lewis and Clark's track across the western portion of North America from the Mississippi to the Pacific ocean. By order of the executive of the

United States in 1804, '05 and '06. Copied from the original drawing of William Clark by Samuel Lewis." Since that time the Root river has been a feature of every map of Minnesota.

Thus it will be seen that from the first appearance of the stream on a map in 1703 down to the time it assumed its present name in 1805-06, the Root river bore the following names: Kicapous, Quicapon, Quikapous, Quicabou, Quicapoux, Macaret, Quicapous, Yallow, Quicapoo, Maceret, Yellow, and Carneille.

The Indians found here by the whites called the stream Hokah, which also means "root."

The first survey made in Fillmore county was that of the northern boundary of the Neutral Strip which crossed the southeastern corner of Fillmore county. The survey was completed by James Craig in 1833, and the results of the survey appear on Map No. 112, in the Office of Indian Affairs at Washington. The survey of the Neutral Strip was completed in 1849.

Fillmore county, with the exception of Rushford, was laid off into townships and sections in 1853.

William B. Yerby surveyed and marked off into sections the townships that are now Newburg, Preble and Norway in 1853, and the town that is now Rushford, in 1854.

Lewis W. Carter surveyed and marked off into sections the townships that are now Canton, Amherst, Holt, Arendahl, Harmony, Preston, Carrolton and Pilot Mound in 1853.

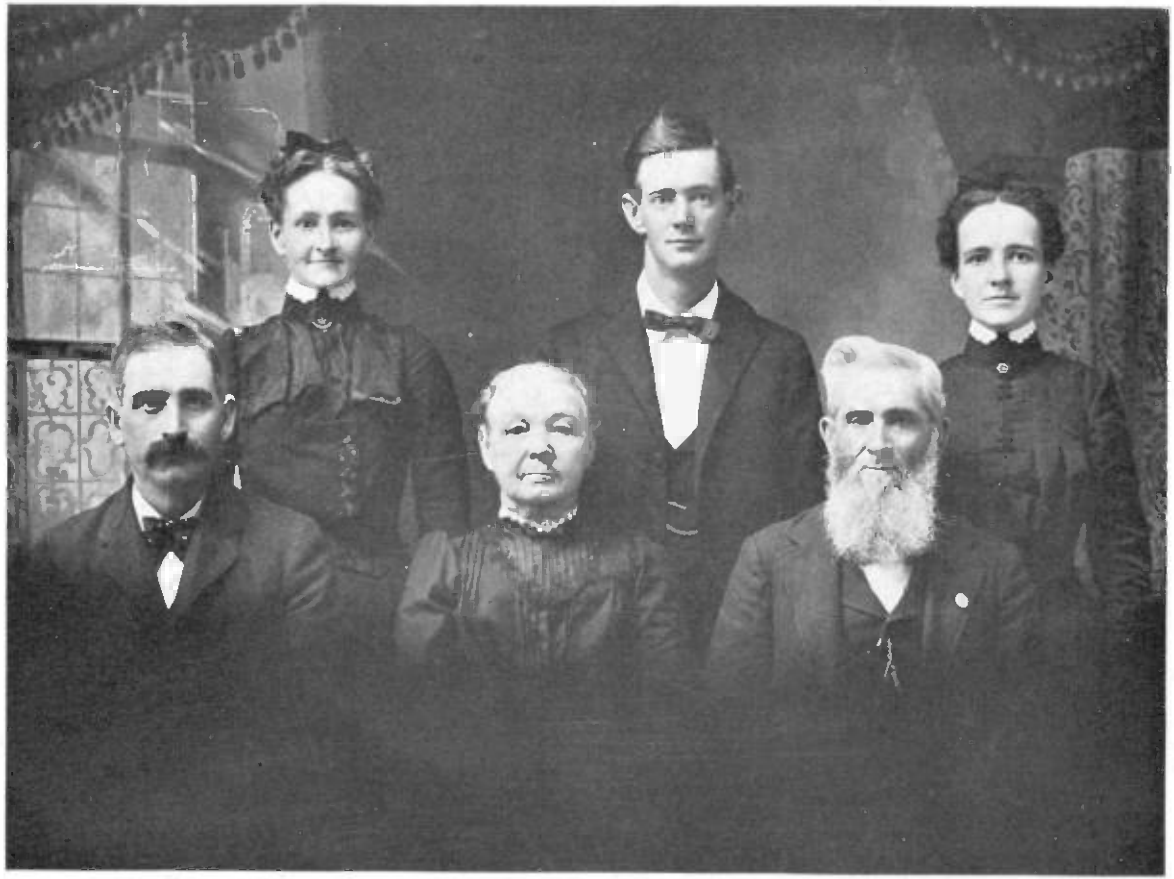
John Parker surveyed and marked off into sections the townships that are now Bristol, York, Forestville, Beaver, Carimona and Bloomfield in 1853.

C. Phipps and E. Fitzpatrick surveyed and marked off into sections the townships that are now Fountain, Chatfield, Fillmore, Jordan, Spring Valley and Sumner in 1853.

That part of the Iowa-Minnesota state line which forms the southern boundary of Fillmore county was surveyed in 1852 by Andrew Talcott.

That part of the First Standard Parallel which forms the northern boundary of Fillmore county was surveyed by E. S. Norris in the spring of 1853.

That part of the First Standard Meridian which crosses Fillmore county was surveyed in the spring of 1853 by E. S. Norris.



WILLIAM WILLFORD AND FAMILY

CHAPTER VI.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

First Settler Arrives in Canton in 1851—Pre-emption Laws—Tide of Immigration Begins—Pioneer Conditions—Territorial Villages—Twenty-four Townsites Platted in Fillmore County Before State Was Admitted.

The first white settlers to select claims in what is now Fillmore county were Albert Nichols and his two companions, ———— Kincaid and ———— Stephens, of Mound Prairie, Columbia county, Wisconsin, who on March 7, 1851, crossed the Iowa state line and marked claims, Nichols in what is now Canton, and the others in what is now Newburg. March 9, 1851, they left the county, having remained but two days. June 1, 1851, they returned, bringing Nichols' family.

Before they returned George Cannon and Joseph Lovesy had arrived from Illinois, with their families, and settled in Newburg, some time in May, 1851, the Cannons and the Lovesys thus becoming the first actual white settlers.

The vicinity in which all of these settlers located was a part of that tract which in 1830 had been relinquished to the United States by the Sioux Indians, assigned by the United States to the Winnebago Indians in 1832, and by them relinquished in 1846. Outside of this comparatively small tract of land in the southeast corner, the area of what is now Fillmore county remained at the time of the arrival of this first settler in the possession of the Sioux, although they were soon to sign the treaty which relinquished their rights.

The governmental policy which made it possible for white settlers to occupy lands relinquished by the Indians, dates back to the very beginning of American government.

In pursuance of the policy of individual ownership, and occupancy of the soil, which is at the foundation of all American liberties, laws were passed in the earliest days of the United States government, for the sale of the public lands in small tracts, on favorable terms. It was soon found, however, that the object of the laws was being in part defeated by men of wealth securing large numbers of these tracts and holding them for speculation.

To prevent, so far as possible, this evasion of the intent of the

law, and the fostering of a landed aristocracy, the pre-emption laws of 1841 were enacted. Under these laws, any citizen, or any foreigner who in legal form declared his intention to become a citizen, and who was not already the owner of 320 acres of land, could pre-empt 160 acres or less, at $1.25 per acre, upon making the necessary improvements and occupancy.

For several years after passing the pre-emption laws the tide of immigration set most strongly toward the public lands of Missouri, eastern Kansas and southern Iowa. A few years later the discovery of gold in California attracted most of the young men in that direction and for a time checked the rush to western prairies.

The pre-emption laws of 1841 with some amendments were in force when the lands in this section of Minnesota were opened to settlement by the extinguishment of the Indian title of 1853, for it must be remembered that notwithstanding the fact that the government purchased this country from France it has always recognized the primal rights or title claimed by the Indians and never opens any part of the territory to settlement until such title has been purchased from the chiefs, and their claim extinquished by treaty.

No sooner had the Indian title in Minnesota been extinguished than the government surveyors commenced running the township and range lines, and dividing the townships thus formed into sections. Some few adventurous men, indeed, waited neither for the departure of the Indians nor the survey.

Never before had any people been offered such favorable opportunity for becoming land owners, and securing for themselves permanent and comfortable homes. Nor did they fail to appreciate their opportunities. Not only from the older states, especially the northern and eastern states, but from foreign countries, many thousands each year, stimulated by the hope and promise of a home and a brighter future, severed the ties that bound them to their native land with all its hallowed associations, bade adieu to friends and kindred, often in sadness and tears, set their faces toward the setting sun, crossed the great Father of Rivers, and for the first time stepped beyond the bounds of civilization. The varied emotions that filled the souls of the pioneers during the first few months or years of their new life, their hopes and fears, their joys and sorrows were firmly locked in their own memories, but will never be told in histories. Doubtless the women felt most keenly their changed condition of life; but as a rule, they accepted the situation bravely, and performed their parts with commendable cheerfulness and fortitude.

There was no general movement of emigrants to this section until 1853, nor did the tidal wave strike heavily until 1854, but

from that time until 1857 there was scarcely an ebb in the tide; but a constant flow into and through this county to points further west. Nor did the emigrants "stand upon the order of their coming," or the means of conveyance. The canvas covered wagon called the "prairie schooner," drawn by horses or mules, was perhaps the most popular and usual conveyance for families, although many came with oxen. Occasionally one would see a crate or slatted box fastened to the hind part of the wagon containing chickens or the family cat or kittens; and if one happened to have a surplus of either he found a ready sale, at good prices, to his neighbors who had been less provident in making up their outfit or less fortunate in their means of transportation.

Of course many young men came without teams, and with very few personal effects, relying upon purchasing, at some trading point, such an outfit as was necessary for making required improvements on their claims.

Some foreigners came direct from their native countries with their native habits and customs, speaking only in their respective native tongues, but all in the pursuit of the same purposes—that is, the securing of a home. In some instances these foreigners came in companies and a single nationality would take possession of a considerable district, but usually they came singly or in small groups and in selecting their lands intermingled with others so that in some localities they constituted a truly heterogeneous people.

Among the early settlers there has probably been about the usual proportion of success and failure. The bright visions of prosperity and wealth with little effort, which many saw before them as they neared the country, ever continued mirage like to be in advance and just beyond their reach. Many others by industry, economy and good management accumulated a reasonable competence, for their declining years. Upon a few, Dame Fortune seemed to bestow her smiles from the first and their coffers were constantly overflowing with bounty.

The present generation has little conception of the hardships and privations of the early days. With most people on their claims, comforts and conveniences were indeed rare for the first year or two. Some lived for weeks and months on the prairie with no shelter from the scorching rays of the noonday sun, the night dews or occasional storms, except the covered wagons, while waiting for lumber with which to build a rude shanty. Nor will it be forgotten that the shanty when built was usually far from comfortable and convenient, especially in winter. Some few resorted to dugouts, but they were a poor excuse for a house. The art of building sod buildings such as were later found in western Kansas and Nebraska was then unknown here. Had it

been known it could hardly have been a success, as the sod is lacking in that heavy fibre which there adapts it to that use. Fortunately very many in this county were able to procure logs with which to build, for in a good house was real comfort. There were of course different degrees of hardships among the earliest settlers. Some few came with sufficient means to enable them to secure at an early date many comforts that to others were long deferred. The man with money had the advantage then, as he has now, and then, as now, the large majority had only moderate or small means, and then, as now, the heaviest burdens fell upon that class. It must not be supposed that all pre-emptors of land intended to cultivate it. Many young men pre-empted their land and soon disposed of it, or mortgaged it for money with which to go into business in town, and not a few returned to their former homes. Some came to engage in business regardless of their pre-emption rights. And another class came for speculation in anything that promised large profits. Some came as the representatives of eastern capitalists to loan money at exorbitant rates of interest. One of the earliest speculations was the laying out of town sites. That required but little capital and to a live man promised quick returns and large profits. For a time therefore surveyors were kept busy in making plats and the register's office was nearly flooded with them. Upon some of those sites important towns have been built up and are now flourishing business centers. Upon others a start was made with encouraging prospects, but from subsequent changes in the surrounding conditions, the struggle for success was abandoned, and the result was gradual decay and final extinction. In other cases there were never any indications of a town except upon the records of the register's office and the highly colored plats from which the enterprising proprietors sold their corner lots to non-residents and strangers.

The first permanent settlements in the county were made in Canton and Newburg in 1851, and in the next three years all the townships had received settlers, and the development of the county was well on its way.

The First Settlement. In the month of February, 1851, Albert Nichols and two of his neighbors, ——— Kincaid and ——— Stephens, all of Fountain Prairie, Columbia county, Wisconsin, who were desirous to go further west and secure for themselves government land, decided to come to Minnesota on a prospecting tour. They prepared their outfit for the trip, consisting of a sack of provisions (bread and pork), axe, gun, blankets and all the necessary articles for camping out, at that season of the year, and started for Minnesota on foot. On the evening of the fourth day's traveling they arrived at La Crosse. Here they found a

few small buildings and an Indian trading house, where they remained during the night. On the fifth day of their travel they crossed the Mississippi and Root rivers and spent their first night in Minnesota at a logger's shanty, where Hokah is now located.

On the morning of the sixth day of their travel they started on a southwest course, following an Indian trail, and camped at night on what has since been known as Norwegian Ridge, in Houston county. This was a bitter cold night, and fears were entertained by the party that they would freeze to death before the dawn of day. On the morning of the seventh day of their journey, after preparing their breakfast of pork and bread, they resumed their travels. About 4 o'clock that afternoon they arrived at the shanty of Benjamin Bear, who held a claim in Iowa, near where Hesper is now located. This little party made their headquarters with Mr. Bear for a number of days, while they were looking that country over. March 7, 1851, Albert Nichols selected the southwest quarter of section 25, township 101, range 9, for the home of himself and family, and proceeded to blaze trees on which he wrote his name, to designate who had made a claim to that piece of land.

On the same day Mr. Kincaid made his claim by marking trees, on the place long known as the West farm in Newburg township.

Also on the same day Mr. Stephens made a claim in the same township, on a place long known as the Edmund's farm.

March 9 this party started for their homes in Wisconsin, to prepare to move their families in early spring to Minnesota. On May 14, 1851, Albert Nichols, Mr. Kincaid and Mr. Stephens left Fountain Prairie, accompanied by Mr. Nichols' family, with an outfit consisting of oxen, cows, wagons, breaking plows and provisions for a part of the summer, to settle on their claims in Minnesota. On their arrival at their claims, on June 1, 1851, Mr. Nichols found his claim unmolested, Mr. Kincaid found George Cannon and family occupying the claim made by him, the Cannons having come some time in May. Mr. Stephens found Joseph Lovesy and family occupying the claim that he had made, the Lovesys having arrived in May.

Thus it will be seen that though Messrs. Nichols, Kincaid and Stephens picked out claims in March, 1851, they did not really locate at that time, the first families to take up their homes here being the Cannons and the Lovesys, who came from Illinois to Newburg in May, 1851, and subsequently moved to Houston county.

Mr. Nichols lived on his claim twenty-two years, and later moved near Heron Lake, Minn. Mr. Cannon sold his land to

Abram West, who moved onto the land July 3, 1852. Mr. Lovesy sold out to Hiram Edmunds.

About July 1, 1851, a Norwegian by the name of Evans settled near the state line in Newburg township, not far from where Mabel is now located.

Calvin Chandler settled on the northeast quarter of section 30, township 101, range 8, in the first part of July, 1851.

TERRITORIAL VILLAGES.

No less than twenty-four villages were platted in Fillmore county prior to the admission of the state, May 11, 1858. Some of these villages are still in existence, others have long since been abandoned, and farms now occupy their sites. The following list gives the name of the village, the location, the date of survey, the name of the surveyor, and the name of the proprietors in consecutive order:

1—**Chatfield.** Sections 5 and 6, 104-11; August 28, 1854; T. B. Twiford; T. B. Twiford, G. W. Willis and William B. Gere. Bristol & Jacobs' Addition; section 5, 104-11; May 1, 1857; James B. Power; H. D. Bristol, Dennis Jacobs and Orrin Thurber. West Chatfield; section 6, 104-11; May 7, 1857; Charles M. Colby (county surveyor); Simon Crittenden. West Chatfield; section 6, 104-11; June 3, 1857; James P. Power (deputy county surveyor); J. R. Bennett, S. Crittenden and S. Dickson. Willis' Addition; 104-11; July 2, 1857; J. W. Bishop; Grove W. Willis. West Chatfield, second addition, January 8, 1858; J. W. Bishop; Simon Crittenden.

2—**Elliota.** Section 32, 101-9; December 13, 1854; H. K. Averill, Jr. (United States deputy surveyor); J. W. Eliott.

3—**Carimona.** Section 4, 102-11; December 27, 1854; Robert K. Whitely; Edwin and William Pickett. Olmsted's Addition; sections 3 and 4, 102-11; April 25, 1855; Robert K. Whitely; David Olmsted. Gilbert & Buttler's Addition; sections 3 and 4, 102-11; April 28, 1857; Charles M. Colby; James I. Gilbert and Henry C. Buttler.

4—**Fillmore.** Section 3, 103-12; February 26, 1855; John Hogarty; Harold H. Jones.

5—**Carimona.** Section 1, 102-11; March 15, 1855; Henry L. Edwards (county surveyor); William L. Tribue. The explanation of these two Carimonas is found elsewhere. When on March 2, 1855, the Minnesota Territorial Legislature designated Carimona as the county seat of Fillmore county, persons who did not want the county seat there took advantage of the fact that though the Picketts had surveyed Carimona in section 4, they had not yet recorded it. Accordingly interested parties had a village

surveyed in section 1, which they claimed was the real Carimona. This was surveyed March 15, 1855, and recorded March 16, 1855. However, on March 27, 1855, the Picketts filed the plat of the real Carimona which they had platted December 27, 1854, but which they had failed to record.

6—**Jordan.** Sections 29 and 32, 104-12; April 6, 1855; Henry L. Edwards (county surveyor); John H. Main.

7—**Forestville.** Section 13, 102-12; April 19, 1855; Robert K. Whitely; Forest Henry.

8—**Preston.** Section 6, 102-10; July 1, 1855; Robert P. Moore; John Kaercher. John Kaercher's Addition; 102-10; May 16, 1856; Charles M. Colby; John Kaercher. Billings' Addition; section 31, 103-10; May 20, 1856; M. Billings; Jarvis Billings. Barbara Kaercher's First Addition, 102-10; July 14, 1856; Charles M. Colby; Barbara Kaercher (Schweitzer). Barbara Kaercher's Second Addition; 102-10; July 27, 1857; Charles M. Colby; Barbara Kaercher (Schweitzer).

9—**Big Springs.** Sections 5 and 8, 101-10; October 6, 1855; Granger & Lewis; James P. Tibbetts.

10—**Newburg.** Section 8, 101-8; December 18, 1855; Enos F. Gray; Hans Valder.

11—**Richland (Richland Center).** Section 35, 102-9; January 22, 1856; Enos F. Gray; William Barton.

12—**Spring Valley.** Section 27, 103-13; March 21, 1856; William Meighen; Thomas C. Watson. Spring Valley; section 33, 103-13; April 7, 1856; T. P. Ropes (county surveyor); J. B. Thayer. Eastman's Addition; August 11, 1857; H. K. Averill, Jr.; E. B. Eastman. Spring Valley Company's Addition; January 11, 1858; E. McMurtrie; Spring Valley Co. Billings & Cummings' Addition; January 25, 1858; E. McMurtrie; Billings & Cummings.

13—**Waukokee.** Section 23, 102-11; April 7, 1856; Robert K. Whitely; John M. West and C. P. Fowler.

14—**Lenora.** Section 2, 101-9; April 19, 1856; John L. Dyer; John L. Dyer and James Goudy.

15—**Liberty.** Section 24, 103-12; April 24, 1856; T. B. Ropes; Henry Kibler.

16—**Elkhorn.** Section 6, 103-13, and section 31, 104-13; April 26, 1856; T. P. Ropes; Jacob McQuillen.

17—**Greenfield.** Section 14, 101-10; May 16, 1856; T. P. Ropes; Knud Peterson and J. P. Norton. Greenfield Addition; section 14, 101-10; August 3, 1857; E. D. Hawkins; Arne Arneson and Knud Peterson.

18—**Hamilton.** Section 6, 103-13; July 4, 1856; surveyor not given; Daniel L. Booth. Morse's Addition; September 1, 1856; no surveyor given; O. B. Morse. Booth's Addition; July 29, 1857; no surveyor given; Daniel L. Booth.

19—Jefferson. Section 6, 102-12; September 4., 1856; T. P. Ropes; John G. Bouldin and Dwight Rathbun.

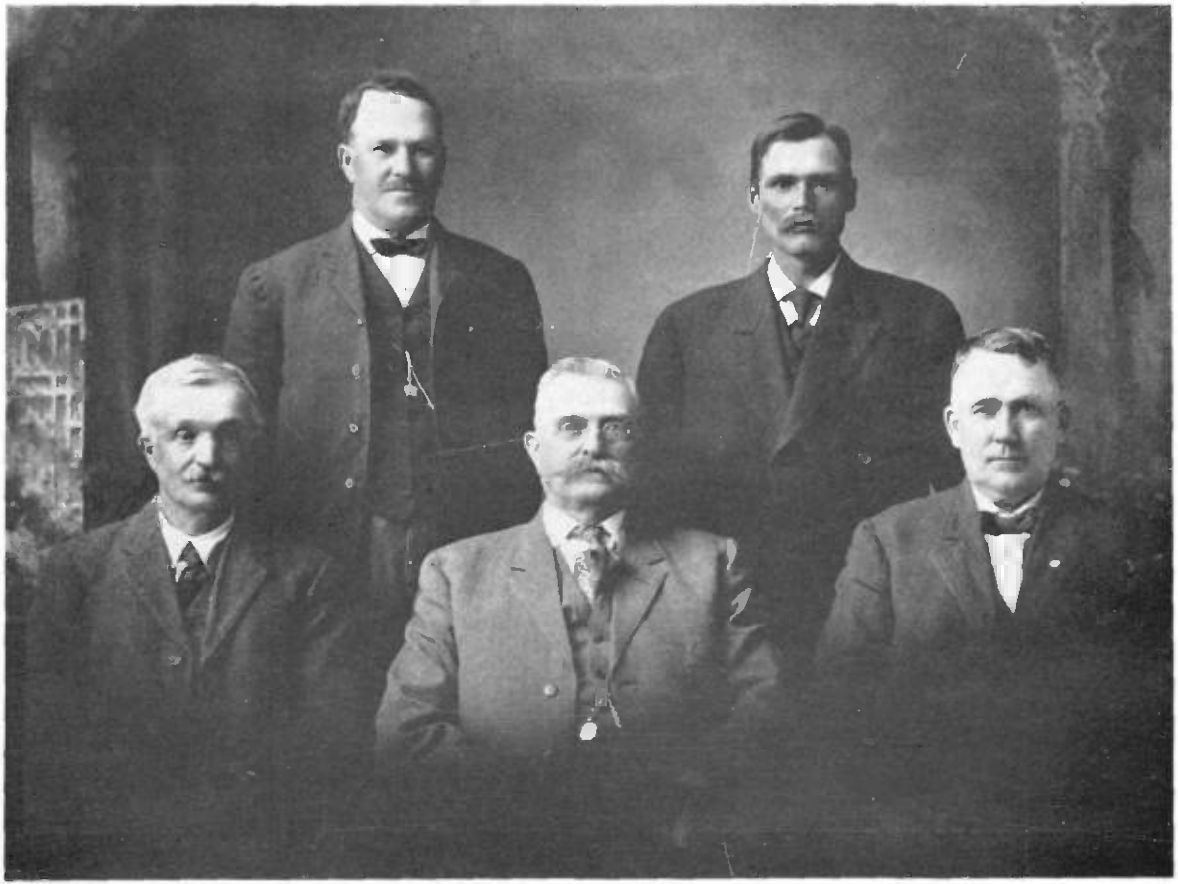
20—Rushford. Section 14, 104-8; October and November, 1856; Isaac Thompson; Hiram Walker, George G. Stevens and Sylvester S. Stebbins.

21—Henry. Sections 32 and 33, 102-9; April 9, 1856; Enos F. Gray; Henry Onstine and Michael Onstine.

22—Wasona. Sections 25 and 26, 104-9; July 3, 1857; Charles H. Brown and Eugene Marshall; M. G. Thompson and John Thompson.

23—Tefton (now Etna). Section 25, 102-13; September 18, 1857; Enos F. Gray; William S. Bly.

24—Granger. Sections 34 and 35, 101-11; April 10, 1858; Brownell Granger; Edward P. Burgess, Brownell Granger and Charles H. Lewis.



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Top Row—Leon Lillie, T. T. Johnson

Bottom Row—D. W. Bacon, D. A. Mosher, J. L. Colby

CHAPTER VII.

ORGANIZATION AND BOUNDARY LINES.

Fillmore County Originally Included in Wabasha County—Fillmore County Created March 5, 1853—Winona and Houston Set Off February 23, 1854—Olmsted Set Off February 20, 1855—Old Election Precincts—Townships Created and Named.

The territory now embraced in Fillmore county was included in the original limits of Wabasha (then spelled Wabashaw) county, which was one of the nine counties created by the first territorial legislature.

Gov. Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor, arrived in St. Paul May 27, 1849, and on June 1, 1849, issued his first proclamation. June 11 he issued a second proclamation, dividing the territory into three judicial districts. Fillmore county, then unpopulated, was included in the third judicial district, with Judge David Cooper on the bench. Court for this district was to be held at Mendota.

July 7, 1849, the governor issued a proclamation dividing the territory into seven council districts and ordering an election. Fillmore county was included in the seventh district.

The first session of the legislative assembly of the territory of Minnesota was held at St. Paul, commencing September 3, 1849.

By an act approved October 27, 1849, the territory was divided into the counties of Washington, Ramsey, Benton, Itasca, Wabashaw, Dakota, Wahnahta, Mahkahto and Pembina. Only the counties of Washington, Ramsey and Benton were fully organized for all county purposes. The others were organized only for the purpose of appointment of justices of the peace, constables, and such other judicial and ministerial offices as might be specially provided for. They were entitled to "any number of justices of the peace and constables, not exceeding six in number, to be appointed by the governor, and their term of office was made two years, unless sooner removed by the governor," and they were made conservators of the peace.

Wabashaw county, as "erected" by the act of October 27, 1849, comprised practically all of the southern part of the present State of Minnesota. Its northern boundary was the parallel running through the mouth of the St. Croix and the mouth of the

Yellow Medicine rivers; its southern boundary was the Iowa line; its eastern the Mississippi, and its western the Missouri, and it also included the big peninsula between the Missouri and the Big Sioux rivers, and all of what is at present southeastern South Dakota. Of this vast country the present Fillmore county was a part.

Chapter 1. Revised Statutes of Minnesota of 1851, divides the territory in Benton, Dakota, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabashaw counties and defines their boundaries. Under the revised statutes, all the territory west of the Mississippi river and east of a line running from Medicine Bottle's village at Pine Bend, due south to the Iowa line, was erected into a separate county to be known as Wabashaw. This included in Wabashaw county a portion of what is now Dakota county as well as all the present counties of Goodhue, Wabasha, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. The line south from Pine Bend in the Mississippi strikes practically the eastern boundary of Freeborn county and the western boundary of Mower county, the exact line being impossible of verification as the Medicine Bottle tepees were differently located at various times, always, however, being within a few rods of the bend in the river.

The first justice of the peace appointed by Gov. Alexander Ramsey for Wabasha county was Thomas K. Allen, of Minnesota City. Mr. Allen, in order to qualify, went to St. Paul. By an unauthorized vote of the people of Minnesota City, expressing their preferences, Mr. Allen was elected justice of the peace; Josiah Keen, constable; James Wright, assessor, and August A. Gilbert, notary public. These men were duly recommended to Governor Ramsey, for the various offices to which they had been elected, and were by him appointed. O. M. Lord, John Iams and Hiram Campbell were elected road commissioners for the colony or precinct, and thus was initiated the first movement toward the building of good wagon roads in the county.

Fillmore county was created by an act of the territorial legislature, approved March 5, 1853. Its sister counties which were created or had their boundaries altered at the same time were: Dakota, Goodhue, Wabasha, Fillmore, Scott, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth, Sibley, Nicollet and Pierce. Section 4, Chapter 15, General Laws of Minnesota, 1853, gives the boundaries of Fillmore county as follows: "Beginning at the southwest corner of Wabashaw county; thence southeast to the Iowa state line; thence east on the Iowa state line to the Mississippi river; thence up the middle of said river to the mouth of the Minneska or White (Whitewater) river; thence up said river and on the south line of Wabasha county to the place of beginning."

The boundaries given in the act of 1853 are vague, and no township surveys had been made. It is therefore impossible to define the exact boundaries of Fillmore county as created at that time. In laying out Goodhue, Wabasha and Fillmore counties, the legislature started at a point at the "southwest corner of Dakota county." From this point they drew a line due southeast to the Iowa line. Starting at the "southwest corner of Dakota county" the first twenty-five miles of this line was the western boundary of Dakota county, the next twenty-five miles was the western boundary of Wabasha county and the remainder of the line was the western boundary of Fillmore county.

A point twenty-five miles due southeast of the "southwest corner of Dakota county" was designated as the southwest corner of Goodhue county, and the southern boundary of that county was a line drawn due east to Lake Pepin.

A point twenty-five miles due southeast of the southwest corner of Goodhue county, and fifty miles due southeast from the "southwest corner of Dakota county" was designated as the southwest corner of Wabasha county, and from this point a line was due east until it reached a point where the law-makers supposed it would intersect the source of the Whitewater river. Thence it followed that river to its mouth. This would supposedly be a description of the northern boundary of the county which was created under the name of Fillmore.

It will be seen that the location of all these boundary lines depends on the location at that time of the southwest corner of Dakota county.

The west and south lines of Dakota county are described in the act as follows: "Beginning in the Minnesota (river) at the mouth of the Credit river; thence in a direct line to the upper branch of the Cannon river; thence down said river to its lowest fork." The upper branch of the Cannon river, properly speaking, is the Straight (Owatonna) river, and consequently this line which formed the eastern boundary of what were then Goodhue, Wabasha and Fillmore counties, and the east boundary of what was then Rice county, started at the present site of Faribault in Rice county and ran due southeast to the village of Granger, in township 101, range 11, Bristol township, Fillmore county. But if this was supposed to be the location of this important boundary line, the members of the legislature greatly overestimated the distance from Faribault due southeast to the Iowa line, for a line drawn due east from a point fifty miles due southeast of Faribault would not touch the source of the Whitewater river.

Dr. Warren Upham, of the Minnesota State Historical Society, is of the opinion that by "upper branch of the Cannon river," the lawmakers meant a small stream which enters the Cannon from

the west in the southern part of what is now Dakota county. If this be so, then the "southwest corner of Dakota county" was north of what is now Northfield; and a line drawn due southeast would cut through what are now Rochester and Chatfield and meet the Iowa line at the southeast corner of what is now the township of Newburg (101-8). If this be a correct drawing of the western boundary line of Goodhue, Wabasha and Fillmore counties, still greater difficulties are presented in defining what was then Fillmore county.

With the imperfect knowledge of geography at the command of the law-makers, and with the lack of surveys at that time, the nearest definition of the original Fillmore county that can be made is to say that it embraced all of Houston county, all of Winona except that part west of the Whitewater river, and parts of Houston and Fillmore. It is absolutely impossible for the original Fillmore county to have embraced all of what are now Winona, Olmsted, Houston and Fillmore counties, although previous historians have often carelessly declared that the original county included all of these four counties.

In the act which created Fillmore county appears the following provisions:

That the counties of Dakota, Wabasha, Fillmore, Scott, Le Sueur, Blue Earth and Nicollet be and the same are hereby declared to be organized counties, and invested with all and singular the rights and privileges and immunities to which all organized counties are in this territory entitled to by law: and it is hereby declared to be the duty of the governor at so soon a time as practicable, to appoint all county offices, justices of the peace and constables, as said counties may be entitled to by law, who shall hold their offices until their successors shall be duly elected at the next general election. That such officers so appointed in the organized and unorganized counties shall give bonds for the faithful performance of their duties in such sums as is now required by law.

"It shall be the duty of the first board of county commissioners which shall be hereafter elected in any county laid off in pursuance of the provisions of this act, as soon as the said board shall have been elected and qualified as provided by law, and the said board or a majority thereof shall determine, to locate the county seat of the county, and the location so made as aforesaid, shall be the county seat of the county to all intent and purposes until otherwise provided by law."

Under this act Governor Gordon appointed the following officers: Register of deeds, H. B. Stoll, of Minneowah; treasurer, Erwin H. Johnson, of Winona; judge of probate, Andrew Cole; sheriff, John Iams. The justices of peace previously appointed

for Wabasha county were continued. They were T. K. Allen, John Burns, George M. Gere and H. B. Waterman. The county commissioners appointed were Henry C. Gere, of Winona; Myron Toms, of Minneowah; and William T. Luark, of Minnesota City.

The first meeting of the county commissioners was held at the Winona House, in Winona, on May 28, 1853. H. C. Gere was chairman and H. B. Stoll was register of deeds.

By an act approved February 23, 1854, the legislature created the counties of Winona and Houston, and defined the boundaries of Fillmore, Wabasha and Goodhue. Houston county was created with its present boundaries. Winona county was created with its present boundaries.

Fillmore county as described February 23, 1854, embraced its present boundaries, with the addition of townships 105 and 106, ranges 11, 12 and 13, in what is now Olmsted county.

By section 23, chapter 23, of the General Laws of Minnesota, approved February 20, 1855, Fillmore county assumed its present boundaries, Olmsted county being established at that date. Olmsted county as then created had the same boundaries as at present, with the exception that sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, in 104-14, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, in 104-15, were cut from Mower county in May 1857, and added to Olmsted.

OLD ELECTION PRECINCTS.

A study of the old election precincts in Fillmore county is interesting in that these precincts were the predecessors of the present towns. The board of commissioners on July 9, 1853, divided the original Fillmore county into six election districts.

Root River Precinct. This precinct was created on petition of ten legal voters residing in Pleasant Valley. The election was ordered to be held at the home of John S. Looney and the judges were to be John S. Looney, Joseph Brown and G. W. Gilfillan. The precinct was a strip running the whole width of the county, bounded on the north by a line due west from the home of Nathan Brown, opposite the mouth of the Black river, and bounded on the south by a line running due west from the mouth of the Root river.

Mt. Vernon Precinct was created at the request of twelve legal voters. The judges of election were to be James Kirkman, Louis Krutzle and A. P. Hall. This precinct, speaking in general terms, took in a strip measuring some five miles north and south, and extending the whole width of the county, the northern boundary being a line due west from the mouth of the Whitewater river. The description of the northern boundary of this precinct gives an idea of where the commissioners believed the northern bound-

ary of the county at that time to be located. The election was to be held at Mt. Vernon.

Minnesota City Precinct embraced the settlement known by that name, although the boundaries are not given in the records. The judges of election were to be H. B. Waterman, O. H. Houck and E. B. Drew.

Minneowah Precinct embraced the locality known by that name. The judges of election were to be James F. Toms, Willard B. Bunnell and William Hewitt.

Winona Precinct was to embrace "Wabasha Prairie" only. The judges of election were to be Harvey Hubbard, O. S. Holbrook and Dr. George Childs.

Brownsville Precinct was created August 27, 1853, at the request of twelve voters. It embraced all that part of the county lying south of a line due west from the Root river. The election was to be held at the public house of David Brown in Brownsville, and the judges were to be Charles Brown, Samuel McPhail and M. C. Young. This precinct embraced practically all of the present Fillmore county except the northern tier of townships.

Langworthy District. This precinct was created March 14, 1854, out of the Root River Precinct. It consisted of Townships 105 and 106, ranges 9 and 10. The judges of election were to be Lewis H. Springer, J. W. Bentley and B. Langworthy.

April 7, 1854, the county having been curtailed to its present limits (with the exception of six townships in the present Olmsted county), the commissioners divided the then limits of the county into five election precincts. The names given these precincts were: Chatfield, Alzina, Warpeton, Tillotson and Elliota. Of these names, that of Chatfield only has been preserved in Fillmore county township nomenclature. The boundaries given, as is often the case in the early county records, are uncertain and vague but, generally speaking, the precincts were as follows:

Alzina Precinct took in what are now the townships of Spring Valley and Sumner. The election judges were D. D. Frazer, S. A. Stears and Jacob McQuillan.

Tillotson Precinct embraced the present townships of Amherst, Preble and Newburg and the eastern half of Canton. The election judges were Franklin Tillotson, James Kelley and Albert Nichols. Franklin Tillotson was also appointed justice of the peace for the precinct.

Elliota Precinct embraced the western half of what is now Canton, and all of what is now Harmony. The election judges were J. W. Elliot, David Dickenson and After Hoag.

Chatfield and Warpeton Precincts occupied the remainder of what then constituted the county, Chatfield being to the north and Warpeton to the south, the boundary line between the two

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being drawn along the south of sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Fillmore township; sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Fountain township, and sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in Carrolton township, and along the east of sections 12, 13, 24, 25 and 26 in what is now Carrolton township. The judges of elections in the Chatfield Precinct were James Munday, James McClellan, Jr., and Philo Curtiss and those in Warpeton Precinct were James M. Sumner, Thomas Watson and Edwin Pickett.

August 28, 1854, six election precincts were created. They were Richland, Elliota, Warpeton, Elkhorn, Chatfield and Curtiss.

Richland Precinct included all of what are now the townships of Arendahl, Rushford, Holt, Norway, Amherst, Preble and Newburg. It also took in all of what is now Canton township, except a strip one and a half miles from east to west and six miles from north to south, along the west edge; that is, all of Canton except sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31 and the eastern halves of sections 5, 8, 17, 20, 29 and 32.

Elliota Precinct. Previous to this date this word had appeared in the records spelled with one "l." This precinct included all of the present townships of Bristol and Harmony, the east half of what is now York, sections 25, 26, 27, 34, 35 and 36 in what is now Forestville, and sections 25 to 36 inclusively in each of what are now the townships of Carimona and Preston; that is, a strip two miles wide and twelve miles long across the southern third of these two townships. The precinct also included the strip six miles by a mile and a half, already mentioned, in what is now Canton.

Warpeton Precinct took in sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 and 24 in what is now Forestville, the east half of what is now Fillmore township, all of what is now Fountain, and all of what is now Carrolton, except the south halves of sections 33, 34 and 25 in 101-10 and sections 6 and 7 in 103-9.

Elkhorn Precinct embraced all of what are now Sumner, Spring Valley, Bloomfield and Beaver and the west halves of Jordan, Fillmore, Forestville and York.

Chatfield Precinct embraced what are now Chatfield and Pilot Mound and the eastern half of what is now Jordan. It also took in all of 105-11, 106-11 and the eastern half of 105-12.

Curtiss Precinct was all in what is now Olmsted county.

The judges of election were to be as follows: Richland, Andrew W. Gray, Albert Nichols and ——— Eddy. Election to be held in the schoolhouse in Richland Prairie. Elliota, ——— Barnes, J. W. Elliot and David Dickenson. Election to be held at the residence of ——— Barnes. Warpeton, R. H. Foster, Thomas Watson and Martin Kingsbury. Election to be held at

the home of Edwin Pickett. Elkhorn, R. A. Steere, Jacob McQuillan, Jr., and D. D. Frazer. Election to be held at the house of D. D. Frazer. Chatfield, G. M. Gere, G. W. Willis and H. L. Edwards. Election to be held at the house of J. W. Sturgis. Curtiss, Philo Curtiss, ——— Gop and Benjamin Bear. Election to be held at the home of Philo Curtiss.

Rushford Precinct was created January 1, 1855, and comprised townships 103 and 104 in ranges 8 and 9. E. H. Dyer, G. Edwards and Peter Peterson were appointed judges of election. E. H. Dyer and Peter Peterson were appointed justices of the peace, and N. Webster constable.

Six election precincts were created April 3, 1855. All but two of these bore names that are still preserved as the names of Fillmore county townships.

Rushford Precinct embraced townships 103 and 104 in ranges 8 and 9; that is, the present townships of Rushford, Arendahl, Norway and Holt, and those two sections now included in Carrolton which properly belong in the government township which embraces Holt. The judges of election were to be E. K. Dyer, G. Edmonds and Peter Peterson, and the election was to be held at the home of E. K. Dyer in Rushford.

Richland Precinct. This precinct embraced townships 101 and 102 in ranges 8 and 9; that is, all of what are now the townships of Preble, Amherst, Canton and Newburg. The judges of election were to be Albert Nichols, Andrew W. Gray and E. P. Eddy. The election was to be held at the Richland schoolhouse.

Chatfield Precinct embraced townships 103 and 104, ranges 10 and 11; that is, the present towns of Chatfield, Pilot Mound, Fountain and Carrolton, with the exception of those two eastern sections of Carrolton which properly belong in the government township which embraces Holt. The judges of election were to be A. W. Fargo, T. J. Safford and G. M. Gene. The election was to be held at Chatfield Hotel in Chatfield village. John Luark was appointed constable, July 13, 1855.

Carimona Precinct embraced townships 101 and 102 in ranges 10 and 11; that is, the present towns of Carimona, Preston, Bristol and Harmony. The judges of election were to be Edwin Pickett, Moses Barnes and Thomas Watson. The election was to be held at the home of Edwin Pickett.

Elkhorn Precinct embraced townships 103 and 104, ranges 12 and 13, the present towns of Sumner, Spring Valley, Jordan and Fillmore. The judges of election were to be Russel A. Steere, S. W. Kingsley and H. S. H. Hayes, and the election was to be held at the home of G. P. Steere. January 9, 1856, Joseph W. Main was appointed constable.

Forestville Precinct embraced townships 101 and 102, ranges

12 and 13; that is, the present towns of Bloomfield, Forestville, Beaver and York. The judges of election were to be John Bateman, O. B. Bryant and R. M. Foster. The election was to be held at the home of ——— Abbot.

April 8, 1856, the following precincts were established: Newburg, Elliota, Richland, Highland, Rushford, Trout Run, Preston, Harmony, Carimona, Chatfield, Elkhorn, Waterford, Spring Valley, Forestville and Etna.

Newburg Precinct embraced the present townships of Preble and Newburgh (101-8 and 102-8). The judges of election were to be David Wisel, William Wier and A. W. Gray. The election was to be held at the Newburg schoolhouse. A. W. Gray was appointed supervisor, and William McHenry, constable.

Elliota Precinct embraced the south half of the present township of Canton (101-9). The judges of election were to be John Cleghorn, J. W. Elliott and Charles Kimball. The election was to be held at the home of Daniel Cheney. Charles Kimball was appointed supervisor; John Cleghorn, justice, and Andrew Cheney and William Elliott, constables.

Richland Precinct. This precinct embraced the north half of the town of Canton (101-9) and all of the present township of Amherst (102-9). The judges of election were to be James M. Graham, E. P. Eddy and E. S. Emmons. The election was held at the Richland schoolhouse. L. M. Smith was appointed road supervisor.

Highland Precinct embraced the present townships of Holt (103-9) and Norway (103-8), as well as the two most eastern sections of Carrolton which properly speaking are included in the government township which embraces Holt. The judges of election were to be G. J. Onstine, Simon Thompson and J. Griffith. The election was to be held at the house of Hans Olson. G. J. Onstine was appointed supervisor; Simon Thompson, constable, and J. Griffith, justice. February 23, 1857, G. J. Onstine was appointed justice of the peace, and N. A. Graves, road supervisor.

Rushford Precinct. This precinct embraced what is now Rushford (104-8) and the east half of what is now Arendahl (104-9). The judges of election were to be ——— Stebbins, ——— West and Hiram Walker. The election was to be held at the home of Peter Peterson. ——— Hobbs was appointed supervisor, and J. L. Ely, constable.

Trout Run Precinct. This precinct embraced the west half of what is now Arendahl (104-9), all of Pilot Mount (104-10) and those three half sections which properly belong in the township which embraces Pilot Mound but which are now included in Carrolton. The judges of election were to be Nelson Frost, H.

Jones and G. Thomas. The election was to be held at the house of J. L. Dickenson. J. L. Dickenson was to be justice of the peace.

Preston Precinct embraced what is now Preston (102-10) and the main part of what is now Carrolton (103-10), exclusive of those sections by which Carrolton is augmented, but which properly belong in the government townships embraced by Holt and Pilot Mound. The judges of election were to be Elias Hunt, Luther Preston and John Kaercher. The election was to be held at the home of Meno Eby. John Kaercher was appointed supervisor; Henry O. Billings, constable, and Elias Lint, justice of the peace. April 9, 1856, Nathan Austin was appointed a justice of the peace.

Harmony Precinct embraced the present townships of Bristol (101-11) and Harmony (101-10). The judges of election were to be After Hoag, William Walter and William Stork. The election was to be held at the home of Knud Peterson. Zara Dayton was appointed supervisor; M. C. St. John and Daniel Dayton, justices, and L. G. St. John, constable. January 6, 1857, J. S. Norton was appointed justice of the peace.

Carimona Precinct embraced the present townships of Carimona (102-11) and Fountain (103-11). The judges of election were to be Henry H. Winslow, Joseph Bisby and Orrin West. The election was to be held at the house of W. H. Strong. S. F. Stillson was appointed supervisor, and Benjamin Philbrick, constable. April 25, 1856, William B. Norman was appointed constable.

Chatfield Precinct embraced the present township of Chatfield (104-11) and a two-mile strip on the east side of the present township of Jordan (104-12). The judges of election were to be G. M. Gere, Charles Wilson and Samuel Foot. The election was to be held at the home of Isaac Day.

Elkhorn Precinct embraced all of the present township of Sumner (104-13), except that section and a half which are now included in Sumner but which properly belong in the government township which embraces Spring Valley, and the west two-thirds of what is now Jordan township (104-12). The judges of election were to be John E. King, Austin Demick and J. L. Green. The election was to be held at the house of John E. King. April 10, 1856, John H. Main was appointed justice.

Waterford Precinct embraced the present township of Fillmore (103-12). The judges of election were to be D. Y. Mosier, T. G. Pond and Robert Rea. The election was to be held at the home of Isaac Decow. D. Y. Mosier was appointed supervisor, and A. Hazlett, constable.

Spring Valley Precinct. This precinct embraced the present limits of Spring Valley township (103-13) and also the section and a half which belong to this government township but which are now included in Sumner. The judges of election were to be Otlin Root, T. W. Cory and S. W. Kingsley. The election was to be held at the Spring Valley schoolhouse. Simeon Phillips was appointed road supervisor; Charles Carthlege, justice of the peace, and J. K. Watson, constable. July 9, 1856, Simeon Phillips was appointed justice of the peace.

Forestville Precinct embraced the present township of Forestville (102-12) and Bloomfield (102-13). The judges of election were to be Gilbert Bassett, Martin B. Gaylord and John Bateman. The election was to be held at the house of John Kechendall. R. E. McCord was appointed supervisor, and R. E. McCord, constable.

Etna Precinct comprised the present townships of York (101-12) and Beaver (101-13). The judges of election were to be Lathrop Abbot, B. S. Briggs and John Eulette. The election was to be held at the home of Lathrop Abbott. John Ellette was appointed supervisor; Lathrop Abbott, justice of the peace, and George Buckmister, constable.

April 7, 1857, the following precincts were established: Sumner, Spring Valley, Bloomfield, Etna, Elkhorn, Waterford, Forestville, Chatfield, Carimona, Union, Trout Run, Preston, Harmony, Rushford, Highland, Richland, Elliota and Newburg. July 7, 1857, Walnut Precinct was established.

Sumner Precinct (104-13) occupied the present limits of Sumner township, with the exception of the section and a half which belongs in the government township which embraces Spring Valley. The election judges were to be H. S. H. Hayes, Daniel L. Booth and B. Bandle and the election was to be held at the home of Martin Ricker.

Spring Valley Precinct (103-13) occupied the present limits of the township of that name and also that section and a half now included in Sumner but which properly belongs in the government township which embraces Spring Valley. The election judges were to be W. H. Dean, J. M. Strong and Orlin Rooy. The election was to be held at the Spring Valley schoolhouse. July 7, 1857, Willard Allen was appointed justice of the peace.

Bloomfield Precinct (102-13) embraced the present township of that name. The judges were to be O. B. Bryant, James Shaw and John Evans. The election was to be held at the home of W. B. Gaylord. O. B. Bryant was appointed justice of the peace, and L. Littlefield constable.

Etna Precinct (101-12 and 101-13). This name is spelled

"Etna" and "Eatna." The precinct embraced the townships of Beaver and York, but on July 7, 1857, York was set off under the name of Walnut Precinct. The election judges in Etna Precinct were to be L. Abbott, R. S. Briggs and John Eulett. The election was to be held at the home of L. Abbott. Peter McCracken was appointed justice and Ira Henderson constable.

Forestville Precinct (102-12) embraced the present limits of the township of that name. The election judges were to be F. Henry, John Long and R. M. Foster. The election was to be held at the home of the latter.

Waterford Precinct (103-12). This precinct embraced the present limits of Fillmore township. The election judges were to be R. Rea, Isaac Decow and T. G. Pond and the election was to be held at the home of Isaac Decow.

Elkhorn Precinct (104-12) embraced the present limits of the township of Jordan. The election judges were to be T. C. Linton, A. E. Demick and James Tabor. The election was to be held at the home of J. M. Gillis. John Mawer was appointed road supervisor.

Chatfield Precinct (104-11) embraced the present township of Chatfield. The election judges were to be James E. Sebring, Samuel Dickson and Charles Wilson. The election was to be held at the home of the latter. October 8, 1857, C. M. Foot was appointed constable.

Carimona Precinct (all of 102-11 and 103-11, except a mile strip on the east side) embraced all of the present townships of Carimona and Fountain, except a strip a mile wide along the east side. That strip was included in Preston, which also embraced practically all of what is now Carrolton. The judges of election in the Carimona Precinct were to be W. C. Pickett, John Fowels and Joseph Pickett, and the election was to be held at the home of W. H. Strong. April 8, 1857, B. B. Strong was appointed constable; July 8, 1857, Edward Pickett was appointed justice of the peace.

Union Precinct (101-11) embraced the present limits of Bristol township. I. Jones, William Adams and Daniel Crowell were appointed election judges and the election was to be held at the home of I. P. Howes. L. G. St. John was appointed road supervisor.

Harmony Precinct (101-10) embraced the present township of Harmony. The judges of election were to be After Hoag, William Stork and William Walter. The election was to be held at the Greenfield Hotel.

Preston Precinct (102-10, 103-10 and a mile strip of the east of 102-9 and 103-9) took in the present township of Preston, all

of what is now Carrolton township (except those few sections which are now included in Carrolton, but which properly belong in the government townships in which Holt and Pilot Mound are included) and a mile strip of the east of the present towns of Carimona and Fountain. The judges of election were to be F. Whiting, T. J. Eames and L. Presto. The election was to be held at the Preston Hotel.

Trout Run Precinct (104-10 and the west half of 104-9) embraced what is now Pilot Mound, the three half sections which are now included in Carrolton but which properly belong in the township which embraces Pilot Mound, and the western half of what is now Arendahl. The judges of election were to be Isaac Dickerson, Nelson Frost and ——— Rouse. The election was to be held at the home of Isaac Dickerson.

Rushford Precinct (104-8 and the east half of 104-9) embraced all of the present townships of Rushford and the east half of what is now Arendahl. The judges of election were to be ——— Stebbins, ——— Stevens and John Iverson. The election was to be held at the home of Hiram Walker. Michael Mead and J. W. Crees were appointed road supervisors.

Highland Precinct (103-9 and 103-8) embraced the present townships of Norway and Holt, also the two sections which are now included in Carrolton township but which properly belong in the government township in which Holt is included. The judges of election were to be G. J. Onstine, Simeon Thorp and J. Griffith. The election was to be held at the home of Hans Oleson.

Richland Precinct (102-9 and the north half of 101-9) embraced all the present township of Amherst and the north half of Canton. The judges of election were to be J. M. Graham, E. R. Eddy and E. S. Emmons. The election was to be held at the Richland schoolhouse.

Elliota Precinct (south half of 101-9) embraced the south half of what is now Canton. The judges of election were to be John Cleghorn, Charles Kimball and Benjamin Sellers. The election was to be held at the home of B. G. O. Bassett.

Newburg Precinct (101-8 and 102-8) embraced the present townships of Newburg and Preble. The election was to be held at the Newburg schoolhouse and the election judges were to be Hans Valder, A. W. Gray and David Wisel.

Walnut Precinct was created July 7, 1857, out of the east half of what had been Etna. It embraced the present township of York. The election was to be held at the house of Ole Bacon, and the election judges were to be Andrew Weaver, H. Burgess and Ole Bacon.

TOWNS ESTABLISHED.

April 5, 1858, the county commissioners established the first towns in Fillmore county, Beaver town having the honor of heading the list. Beaver, Bloomfield, Jordan, Fillmore, Forestville, York, Chatfield, Fountain, Carimona, Pilot Mound, Carrolton, Preston, Harmony, Amherst, Preble and Newburg were established with their present names and area. Union as then established embraced the present area of Bristol. Elyria as then established embraced the present area of Canton. Douglass as then established embraced the present townships of Holt and Norway. Rushford as then established embraced the present towns of Arendahl and Rushford. On April 10, 1858, Spring Valley and Sumner were established, the former occupying all of 103-13 except sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16 and 17, and the latter occupying all of 104-13, with the addition of the sections in 103-13 just mentioned.

Judges of election were appointed as follows: Beaver—William Beaman, Andrew Peters and Dennis Morgan, the election to be held at the home of Andrew Peters. Bloomfield—O. B. Bryant, Joseph Campbell and Myron Conklin, the election to be held at the house of Martin Gaylord. York—E. Henderson, Shields Adams and H. Burgess, the election to be held at the house of O. Bacon. Fillmore—T. J. Andrews, T. G. Pond and Isaac Decow, the election to be held at the home of Isaac Decow. Forestville—Forest Henry, N. Redman and R. M. Foster, the election to be held at the house of M. J. Foster. Jordan—Jacob Oakey, James Taber and Daniel McCollum, the election to be held at the home of J. M. Gillis. Union (Bristol)—J. P. Howe, J. J. Jones and William E. Adams, the election to be held at the home of J. P. Howe. Carimona—Samuel Hull, Ezekiel Thomas and William T. Sitler, the election to be held at the Carimona House. Fountain—Thomas Watson, J. L. Bolles and Hiram Johnson, the election to be held at the home of Edward Cummings. Chatfield—Isaac S. Cole, George M. Gere and I. F. O'Farrell, the election to be held at the Medary House. Harmony—Thomas Erickson, Moses Barnes and John H. Addison, the election to be held at the Greenfield House. Preston—F. Whitney, Luther Preston and Thomas Quinn, the election to be held at the Stanwix House. Carrolton—Michael Mulholland, Charles Butler and Charles McQuire, the election to be held at the house of Michael Mulholland. Pilot Mound—S. A. Wolcott, E. C. DeBrush and H. R. Rouse, the election to be held at the schoolhouse of district 65. Elyria (Canton)—E. P. Eddy, James Graham and William S. Marsh, the election to be held at the schoolhouse in Lenora. Amherst—Caleb Austin, Francis Richardson and Andrew Thompson, the election to be

held at the home of Caleb Austin. Douglass (Holt and Norway) —George Onstine, Anders Byholt and John Russell, the election to be held in the schoolhouse in district 60. Newburg—G. Gabrielson, A. H. Butler and C. C. Seelye, the election to be held in the Newburg schoolhouse. Preble—Thomas G. Hall, David Weisel and Iver Thompson, the election to be held at the home of Thomas G. Hall. Rushford (Rushford and Arendahl)—Peter Peterson, S. S. Stebbins and Hiram Walker, the election to be held at the house of Peter Peterson. Spring Valley—Cordillo Wilkins, J. M. Strong and Simeon Phillips, the election to be held at the Spring Valley schoolhouse. Sumner—W. B. Melvin, I. M. Choate and W. H. Dean, the election to be held at the house of T. W. Corey.

Bristol later took the place of Union, and Canton that of Elyria, in the county records. Norway and Holt were created out of Douglass, and Arendahl was separated from Rushford. The legislature adjusted the boundary between Spring Valley and Sumner, leaving the line as at present.

CHAPTER VIII.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

First Officers Appointed By Governor Gorman—Acts of the Early Boards—Territorial Commissioners—Supervisor System—Commissioners Since 1860—List of County Officers—County Seat Changes—County Property—Court House—Jail—County Poor Farm—Edited By Samuel A. Langum.

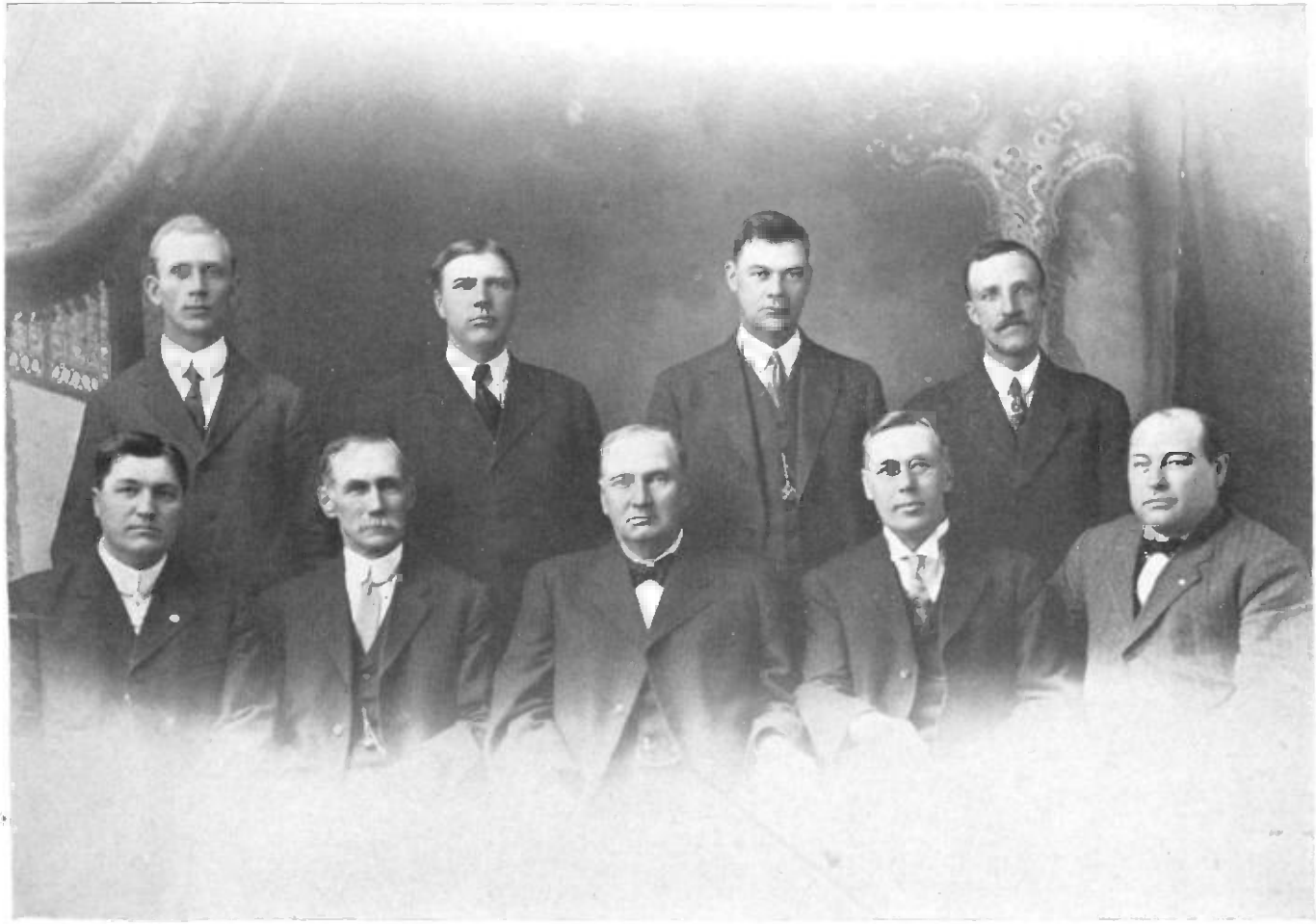
The history of the government of Fillmore county begins with the spring of 1853 when Gov. Willis A. Gorman, second territorial governor of Minnesota, appointed officers for the county as follows:

Registrar of Deeds, Henry H. Stoll, of Minneowah; treasurer, Erwin H. Johnson, of Winona; judge of probate, Andrew Cole; sheriff, John Iams; commissioners, Henry C. Gere, of Winona; Myron Toms, of Minneowah, and William T. Luark, of Minnesota City.

The first board of county commissioners, consisting of Henry C. Gere, Myron Toms and William T. Luark, met at the Winona Hotel, in Winona, May 28, 1853, and appointed Henry C. Gere chairman. H. B. Stoll was clerk. Thus organized the board proceeded to business. John Iams presented his bond as sheriff, with O. M. Loard and E. B. Drew as sureties. Grand and petit jury lists were drawn, and three assessors, S. A. Hawk (Huyck), John C. Laird and Jeremiah Tibbetts were appointed assessors "to fill vacancies." The meeting then adjourned to meet at the home of John Burns. Thus were the wheels of county government set in motion.

The second meeting was held at the home of John Burns, in the mouth of Burn's Valley, June 4, 1853, the clerk and two commissioners being present. Henry C. Gere was absent. The bond of S. A. Huyck, as assessor, with William T. Luark as surety, was accepted.

Owing to high water, it was impossible for Messrs. Luark and Gere to get to Minneowah, which had been selected for the next meeting place, and consequently, on July 4, Myron Toms, commissioner, and H. B. Stoll, clerk, adjourned the session to meet at Winona the next day. But they were unable to get there, so on July 5 the other two members, Messrs. Gere and Luark, met at the Winona Hotel in Winona, and after approving the bond of Erwin



FILLMORE COUNTY OFFICERS

Top Row—Register of Deeds, A. P. Nelson; Coroner, Dr. W. B. Grinnell; Clerk of Court, Henry A. Larson; County Superintendent, Oscar Carlson.

Lower Row—County Treasurer, E. A. Higham; Judge of Probate, D. K. Michener; Sheriff, E. K. Blexrud; County Auditor, George E. Weatherill; County Attorney, John W. Hopp.

Johnson as sheriff, adjourned until July 9, 1853. On that date the meeting was held at the Winona Hotel, Winona, and all the members were present. At this meeting various election districts were designated, the first being the Root River district, which was established at the request of ten legal voters living in Pleasant Valley. The judges of election were to be John S. Looney, Joseph Brown and G. W. Gillfallen. The election was to be held at the home of John S. Looney. The first school district, that of Minnesota City, was also established. The first road petition was also granted, its route to be from Minnesota City to Winona, with Harvey Hubbard and E. B. Drew as examiners. C. R. Corriell was appointed county surveyor. Further meetings were held at the Winona Hotel, July 22 and August 27, 1853. At the latter date the bond of C. R. Coryell (Corriell), as county surveyor, was accepted.

The meeting of December 27 was held at Chatfield, with Commissioners Henry C. Gere and Myron Toms, and C. W. Willis, clerk pro tem, present. At this meeting the county seat was located at Chatfield, although this board never again met there, their subsequent meeting being held at the home of W. B. Bunnell in the Minneowah district.

The board of commissioners elected October 11, 1853, consisted of Robert Pike, Jr., John C. Laird and Willard B. Bunnell. This board met at the home of Robert Pike, Jr., in Minnesota City, January 2, 1854, with W. B. Gere as clerk. W. B. Bunnell was made chairman. At this meeting the seal of the county was adopted.

Assessment districts were created at this meeting. The First district was all of the county north of the north line of township 106, the Second district lay between the north line of township 106 and the north line of township 103, the Third district was the three southern tier of townships in the county. Thus the northern tier of townships in what is now Fillmore county would have been in the Second district, and the three southern tiers of townships in what is now Fillmore county would have been in the Third district. S. A. Houck was the assessor assigned to the First district; Hamilton McCollum to the Second, and Edward Thompson to the Third.

The county at this time having had no receipts, it appeared that the liabilities were $536.86.

February 20, 1854, the county assumed its present boundaries with six townships in Olmsted county added and, consequently, the board which met April 7, 1854, consisting of Robert Pike, Jr., and W. B. Bunnell, had many new conditions confronting it. One of the first acts was to establish election precincts.

Owing to the curtailment of the boundary lines, an entirely

new board of commissioners was appointed July 18, 1854, although who made the appointment does not appear. The new board, consisting of T. B. Twiford, Elijah Austin and H. S. H. Hayes met at Chatfield July 18, 1854, and devoted its time to appointing officers and establishing precincts. H. S. H. Hayes was appointed chairman of the board.

April 7, 1854, the Chatfield, Warpeton and Elliota assessment districts were created.

Chatfield District included townships 104, 105 and 106, ranges 11, 12 and 13. The assessor was to be Hugby Parsley.

Warpeton District included townships 101, 102 and 103, in ranges 11, 12 and 13. W. C. Pickett was appointed assessor.

Elliota District included townships 102, 103 and 104, ranges 8, 9 and 10. The assessor appointed was J. W. Elliot.

The assessors who took office January 1, 1855, were: Chatfield District, Benjamin Bear; Warpeton District, Joseph Bisby; Elliota District, Warren J. Howell.

April 2, 1855, assessment districts were created as follows:

1—Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, ranges 8 and 9. Assessor, W. J. Howell. January 10, 1856, Hans Valder was appointed assessor.

2—Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, ranges 10 and 11. Assessor, S. A. Sturges.

3—Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104, ranges 12 and 13. Assessor, Henry Kibler. April 8, 1857, Walter S. Booth was appointed assessor.

It would appear from the bills presented that many others also assisted in the assessments in the various districts.

Although previous to July, 1855, the commissioners had several times defined assessment districts and appointed assessors, nevertheless the first county tax was not laid until July 4, 1855. On that date it was reported that the amount of taxable real and personal property in the county aggregated $355,889, of which $123,591 was in the First District; $130,565 was in the Second District, and $101,733 in the Third District. On this amount was laid a county tax of one per cent ($3,558.89), a school tax of two and a half mills ($889.72) and a territorial tax of one mill ($355.88).

January 12, 1856, the treasurer's report was issued. It showed that school taxes had been collected to the amount of $349.69. Fines had been collected to the amount of $64.60 for trespass on school lands. This deducting the treasurer's per cent left $406 to be used for school purposes. It appeared that there was $540 school taxes not collected. Territorial taxes had been collected to the amount of $135.43. This deducting the treasurer's percentage left $132.73. The territorial tax not col-

lected amounted to $230.45. The county tax collected amounted to $2,072.31, and this, deducting the treasurer's percentage, left $2,030.87, which amount had been paid out to cancel outstanding county orders. Orders to the amount of $2,060.91 were issued during the year 1855, and orders to the amount of $1,343.16 were issued previous to that date. It was found that the expenses of the county before Houston and Winona were cut off were $1,280, and accordingly a bill for $450 was presented to the authorities of the newly created Winona county, and a bill for $400 to the authorities of the newly created Houston county. The account with Winona county was settled October 19, 1858, at $408.50.

Trritorial. The commissioners of Fillmore county, since its organization, have been as follows, the first named under each year being the chairman:

1853—May 28 to December 31 (appointed), Henry C. Gere, Myron Toms and William T. Luark.

1854—January 1 to July 18—Willard B. Bunnell, John C. Laird and Robert Pike, Jr.

1854—July 18 to December 31—H. S. H. Hayes, T. B. Twiford and Elijah Austin.

1855—George M. Gere, H. S. H. Hayes and E. P. Eddy.

1856—George M. Gere, H. S. H. Hayes and M. C. St. John.

1857—George M. Gere, M. C. St. John and J. M. Gillis.

1858—M. C. St. John, J. M. Gillis and Gabriel Gabrielson.

Supervisor System. In 1858, Minnesota being provided with a state constitution, there began an era which in this state continued but a short time, that of county government by a board of supervisors consisting of the chairmen of the different townships and representatives from the incorporated settlements.

1858—The first board of county supervisors, consisting of one member from each of the towns then organized, and an extra member from Chatfield village, met September 14, 1858, at the office of the register of deeds. Reuben Wells, of York, was elected chairman, and C. M. Colby, clerk. It was decided to hold the meetings in the Stanwix Hotel (now the Tibbetts House), to which the meeting at once adjourned. Those present were: Beaver, Peter N. Glathart; Bloomfield, O. B. Bryant; Spring Valley, W. T. Wilkins; Sumner, C. D. Sherwood; Jordan, J. M. Gillis; Fillmore, T. G. Pond; Forestville, Forest Henry; York, Reuben Wells; Union (Bristol), M. C. St. John; Carimona, William H. Strong; Fountain, Thomas C. Watson; Chatfield, A. Haven and A. Fitch; Pilot Mound, C. W. French; Carrolton, G. W. Eddy; Preston, S. B. Murrel; Harmony, Francis J. Craig; Elyria, Joseph Woodle; Amherst, C. C. Onstine; Douglass, G. J. Onstine; Rushford, Henry Mead; Preble, Thomas G. Hall; Newburg, A. H. Butler. October 9, 1858, Edward Dexter took the

seat of A. Haven, of Chatfield. He in turn was replaced on January 3, 1859, by H. B. Morse. Glathart was replaced January 3, 1859, by B. F. Holman, of Beaver.

1859-60—The second board of county supervisors assembled May 10, 1859. A. H. Butler was appointed chairman, and H. D. Bristol, the county auditor, sat as clerk. Those present were: Beaver, B. F. Holman; Bloomfield, ——— Warner; Spring Valley, W. T. Wilkins; Sumner, C. D. Sherwood; Jordan, T. C. Linton; Fillmore, E. H. Shaw; Forestville, William Meighen; York, Reuben Wells; Carimona, William H. Strong; Fountain, R. L. Fleming; Chatfield, C. G. Ripley and Levi Bemis; Pilot Mound, C. W. French; Carrolton, James Thompson; Preston, T. J. Eames; Harmony, Daniel Dayton; Elyria (Canton) W. J. Howell; Amherst, C. C. Onstine; Douglass, G. J. Onstine; Rushford, G. G. Stevens; Preble, T. G. Hall; Newburg, A. H. Butler; Union (Bristol), Chester Andrews. The new members seated January 2, 1860, were: York, Thomas Armstrong; Forestville, F. Henry; Harmony, William Stork; Newburg, E. F. West. At this meeting, T. J. James was chosen as chairman.

1860—In 1860, the state returned to the commission system of county government which has since been in vogue. Fillmore county was divided into five districts, as follows:

1—Rushford, Arendahl, Pilot Mound, Fountain, Carrolton, Douglass and Norway.

2—Chatfield, Jordan and Sumner.

3—Spring Valley, Fillmore, Forestville, Bloomfield, Beaver and York.

4—Carimona, Preston, Harmony and Bristol.

5—Amherst, Preble, Canton and Newburg.

These districts have since remained the same, with the exception that on January 9, 1869, Fountain was taken from the first district and added to the second district.

The commissioners for 1860 were: G. G. Stevens, W. J. Howell, J. B. Fraser, Dennis Jacobs and S. A. Hunt.

1861—C. E. Coloney, N. A. Graves, John McGrew, Elijah Clark and B. F. Holman. The latter failed to qualify and E. McMurtrie was appointed.

1862—G. A. Hayes, Lewis Peterson, B. F. Holman, E. F. West and D. R. Smith. The latter failed to qualify and J. W. Crees was appointed.

1863—G. A. Hayes, E. F. West, B. F. Holman, Henry Marks and M. Scanlan.

1864—G. A. Hayes, B. F. Holman, Henry Marks, M. Scanlan and E. F. West.

1865—B. F. Holman, M. Scanlan, J. B. Fraser, William Carpenter and G. A. Hayes. The latter resigned April 14, and his place was taken by H. S. H. Hayes.

1866—B. F. Holman, J. B. Fraser, William Carpenter, H. S. H. Hayes and R. L. Fleming. William Carpenter resigned May 25 and Orrin Holmes was appointed in his place.

1867—Horace Wheeler, J. B. Fraser, R. L. Fleming, William A. Pease and C. E. Evans.

1868—C. E. Evans, W. A. Pease, R. L. Fleming, Orrin F. Holmes and D. B. Colman.

1869—Orrin F. Holmes, C. E. Evans, W. A. Pease, D. B. Colman and John Iverson.

1870—O. F. Holmes, D. B. Colman, Peter McCracken, Marcus Robbins and John Iverson.

1871—Peter McCracken, Marcus Robbins, John Iverson, William Barton and J. P. Howe.

1872—Marcus Robbins, William Barton, J. P. Howe, J. C. Greer and W. B. McNee.

1873—William Barton, J. C. Greer, J. P. Howe, W. A. Pease and J. L. Michener.

1874—J. L. Michener, C. M. Lovell, A. D. Gray, Seger Berg and Col. Henry Marks.

1875—A. D. Gray, J. L. Michener, Henry Marks, H. Christopherson and Charles Hanley.

1876—A. D. Gray, J. L. Michener, H. Christopherson, George H. Haven and Henry Marks.

1877—J. L. Michener, George H. Haven, H. Christopherson, Jerome Utley and A. D. Gray. The latter resigned to take effect January 1, 1878.

1878—J. L. Michener, Geo. H. Haven, Jerome Utley, O. E. Boyum and M. L. Potter.

1879—Jerome Utley, Ed. Stevens, M. L. Potter, O. E. Boyum and O. H. Rose.

1880—M. L. Potter, O. H. Rose, Ed. Stevens, O. E. Boyum and Jerome Utley.

1881—Jerome Utley, O. H. Rose, M. A. Maland, Ed. Stevens and M. L. Potter.

1882—Jerome Utley, M. L. Potter, M. A. Maland, Ed. Stevens and R. M. Foster.

1883—Ed. Stevens, R. M. Foster, M. A. Maland, Thomas Quinn and J. G. Miner.

1884—Ed. Stevens, Niles Carpenter, R. M. Foster, Thomas Quinn and J. G. Miner.

1885—J. G. Miner, Niles Carpenter, Thomas Quinn, W. A. Pease and Ole J. Hattlestad.

1886—J. G. Miner, Niles Carpenter, Thomas Quinn, W. A. Pease and Ole J. Hattlestad.

By an act of the legislature of 1885 the terms of all county commissioners expired on the last day of December, 1886. In the fall of 1886 the people of Fillmore county elected five commissioners, who took office January 1, 1887. Those from the first, third and fifth districts were to serve two years and those from the second and fourth districts were to serve four years. At the expiration of the three short terms, all commissioners were to serve four years. Under this plan, which is still in vogue, the make-up of the county board can change but once in two years, except in cases of death, resignation or removals.

1887—5, J. G. Miner (chairman); 1, Ole C. Swenson; 2, Levi Ober; 3, Fred Wendorf; 4, G. Vander Bie. February 6, 1888, W. A. Pease was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Captain Levi Ober.

1889—4, G. Vander Bie (chairman); 1, Niles Carpenter; 2, W. A. Pease; 3, John Aslakson; 5, G. M. Graham. April 3, 1890, N. O. Henderson was appointed in place of G. M. Graham, resigned.

1891—5, N. O. Henderson; 1, Niles Carpenter; 2, W. A. Pease; 3, John Aslakson; 4, A. H. Daniels.

1893—5, N. O. Henderson (chairman); 1, C. H. Schansberg; 2, W. A. Pease; 3, L. M. Ashley; 4, A. H. Daniels. September 7, 1894, W. L. Kellogg was appointed for the remainder of the year in place of L. M. Ashley, deceased.

1895—5, N. O. Henderson (chairman); 1, C. H. Schansberg; 2, E. G. Bolles; 3, William C. Love; 4, J. H. Roberts. C. H. Schansberg was chairman in 1896.

1897—2, E. G. Bolles (chairman); 1, O. E. Boyum; 3, William C. Love; 4, J. H. Roberts; 5, A. C. Dayton.

1899—2, E. G. Bolles; 1, O. E. Boyum; 3, William C. Love; 4, Tollef Sanderson; 5, A. C. Dayton.

1901—2, E. G. Bolles (chairman); 1, T. E. Sorenson; 3, D. K. Michener; 4, Tollef Sanderson; 5, E. L. Babcock.

1903—3, D. K. Michener (chairman); 1, T. E. Sorenson; 2, D. J. Danielson; 4, D. A. Mosher; 5, E. L. Babcock.

1905—3, D. K. Michener; 1, Thore T. Johnson; 2, D. J. Danielson; 4, D. A. Mosher; 5, Erick Nupson.

1907—3, D. K. Michener; 1, Thore T. Johnson; 2, D. J. Danielson; 4, D. A. Mosher; 5, Erick Nupson.

1909—4, D. A. Mosher; 1, Thore T. Johnson; 2, D. J. Danielson; 3, J. L. Colby; 5, Erick Nupson.

1911—4, D. A. Mosher; 1, Thore T. Johnson; 2, Leon Lillie; 3, J. L. Colby; 5, D. W. Bacon.

COUNTY OFFICIALS.

The principal officers of the county, since May 28, 1853, are given in the list which follows. In a few instances the compilers have omitted the names of those appointed for a very short time to fill vacancies caused by illness, death or removal, their official service being so short as to be foreign to the ground which this history aims to cover. The list has been compiled with great difficulty, as the election returns have not been preserved, and no such list has hitherto been published.

Registrar of Deeds. The territorial occupants of this office were Henry B. Stoll, C. F. Buck, William B. Gere and S. B. Murrel. Those who have served in statehood days are: Grove W. Willis, W. T. Wilkins, T. G. Fladeland, Lars O. Hamre, H. C. Gullickson, H. O. Larson, W. C. Garrett, T. I. Garrett and A. P. Nelson. Henry B. Stoll, appointed by Governor Gorman, took office May 28, 1853. During his term, Sylvester J. Smith and Grove W. Willis each acted once as clerk of the county commissioners, pro tem. C. F. Buck appears as deputy, December 31, 1853, and on December 27, 1853, assumed the full duties of the office. William B. Gere was elected October 11, 1853, and took his seat January 2, 1854. Grove W. Willis, Henry L. Edwards and S. B. Murrel appear as his deputies. January 8, 1856, S. B. Murrel became the registrar, his deputy being C. M. Colby. The terms of the other registers have been as follows: 1858-59, Grove W. Willis; 1860-67, W. T. Wilkins; 1861-71, T. G. Fladeland; 1872-79, Lars O. Hamre; 1880-86, H. C. Gullickson; 1889-92, H. O. Larson; 1893-96, W. C. Garrett; 1897-1910, T. I. Garrett; 1911, A. P. Nelson to the present time. The registrar of deeds performed the duties of auditor and clerk of the county commissioners until January 6, 1859.

Auditor. Until January 6, 1859, the duties of auditor and clerk of the county commissioner were performed by the registrar of deeds. The first auditor was H. D. Bristol, who presented his bond January 6, 1859, and took his seat at once. He resigned January 1, 1861, John S. Marsh was appointed and served at one meeting, after which Niles Carpenter was appointed, serving from January, 1861, to the close of 1866. Since then the auditors have been: 1867-72, C. H. Conkey; 1873-76, Aldis Bartlett; 1877-82, George W. Hard; 1883-88, G. A. Hayes; 1889-92, T. A. Sorenson; 1893-1900, John C. Mills; 1901-08, J. F. Jones; 1909, George C. Weatherill, to the present time.

Treasurer. The first treasurer of Fillmore county was Erwin H. Johnson, who took his office May 28, 1853. It is apparent that a treasurer was elected October 11, 1853, for on April 7, 1854,

James McClellan, Jr., was appointed "to fill a vacancy." J. W. Sturges took office January 1, 1855, and eight days later, January 9, 1855, William Chalfant assumed the duties of the office. The records are very vague as to the territorial treasurers of the county. Luther Preston presented his bond as treasurer, January 6, 1859. January 3, 1860, H. S. Griswold presented his bond as treasurer. He resigned June 4, 1860. In the meantime the affairs of the treasurer's office were in the hands of N. P. Colburn, who was appointed temporary treasurer, and Elias Lint; Luther Preston, the treasurer, having been involved in financial difficulties. The tangle was straightened out, and Ephraim McMurtie was appointed June 4, 1860, to serve for the remainder of the year. Since then the treasurers have been: 1861-65, S. B. Murrel; 1866-69, A. H. Butler; 1870-73, A. J. Stevens; 1874-81, W. W. Braden (Braden resigned, to take effect January 1, 1882, and W. A. Nelson was appointed); 1882-88, W. A. Nelson; 1889-92, T. Sanderson; 1893-1906, Lars O. Hamre; 1907, E. A. Highum, to the present time.

Judge of Probate. Andrew Cole was appointed judge of probate by Governor Gorman and took office May 28, 1853. January 30, C. F. Buck, who had been elected October 11, 1853, took his seat. The first to have done active service seems to have been Hon. Forest Henry, of Forestville, a man of great kindness of heart, of liberal mind, of strict integrity of character, and of practical judgment. He was succeeded by Dr. William C. Pickett, of Carimona, elected in the fall of 1857,—a man of independent opinion, upright as a judge and as a citizen, and fearless in the discharge of his duties. William C. Pickett was the last territorial and first state judge of probate in this county. J. F. Marsh served from January 4, 1860, until his resignation October 10, 1862. May 6, 1863, A. S. Lindsey, the judge of probate, being absent from the county, Dryden Smith was appointed. Smith served until the close of 1869. The judges of probate since that date have been: H. R. Wells, 1870-71; H. S. Bassett, 1872-1881; E. V. Farrington, 1882-1907; H. S. Bassett, April, 1907, to 1909 (named by Governor John A. Johnson to fill unexpired term of E. V. Farrington); D. K. Michener, 1909, to the present time.

Sheriff. John Iams was the first sheriff of Fillmore county, taking office by appointment May 28, 1853, and being elected to succeed himself. James Munday was appointed April 7, 1854. Isaac Day became sheriff August 28, 1854, resigned April 2, 1855, and was at once reappointed. He was followed by William H. Strong and Henry C. Wheeler, the latter of whom was serving when the state was admitted. Since then the sheriffs have been: 1859, William Pickett; 1860, S. O. Thayer; 1861-62, E. H. Shaw; 1863-66, William D. Lipe; 1867-68, Leroy L. Streeter (Streeter

resigned September 4, 1868, and the unexpired term was filled by the appointment of Abram Kalder); 1869-72, H. C. Gullickson; 1873-78, Christian Petersen; 1879-80, Ole Allen; 1881-85, S. A. Langum; 1886-94, Henry Nupson; 1896, E. K. Blexrud, to the present time.

School Superintendent. Up to 1864 no well defined management of schools existed. In speculating on the best system, the legislature created first a town superintendency, then an examiner for each commissioner district, and lastly one general superintendent for each county. Under this E. J. Thompson was appointed June 10, 1864, at a salary of $800. September 9, of the same year, $200 was added. At the time Mr. Thompson was appointed, 137 school districts had been created in the county. Of these, however, it is evident that only sixty-six were conducting schools at that time, for that is the number appearing in the county financial report of that year. Mr. Thompson's salary was raised from $1,000 to $1,300 and then to $1,350. He resigned April 3, 1867, and G. J. Sanderson was appointed at a salary of $1,000. In 1869, Rev. D. L. Keihle was appointed. At first the commissioners determined to pay him by the day and allow him a certain sum for each mile traveled. Later his salary was fixed at $1,200 a year. Rev. Kiehle served from April 1, 1869, to July 1, 1875. When he resigned D. W. Sprague was appointed. He served until the close of 1877. John Brady was superintendent from January, 1878, to January, 1887. Emma Allen, now Mrs. John C. Mills, the only woman superintendent of the county, served from January, 1887, to January, 1891. Then K. W. Buell served until January, 1907, followed by Oscar Carlson, the present superintendent.

Clerk of Court. W. B. Gere appears to have been clerk of court which convened at Winona May 28, 1853. Grove W. Willis took office about July 15, 1853, and served until May, 1861. John S. Marsh appears to have done service a few months, succeeded by H. A. Billings, who served from 1862 to 1867. J. C. Braden served in 1867 and 1868, after which H. A. Billings again appears to have become the clerk and served until 1878. A. D. Gray was clerk from January, 1878, to January, 1891. D. W. Bacon served from January, 1891, to January, 1898. L. H. Prosser served one term, from January, 1899, to January, 1902, and on January, 1902, Henry A. Larson, the present clerk, assumed the duties of the office.

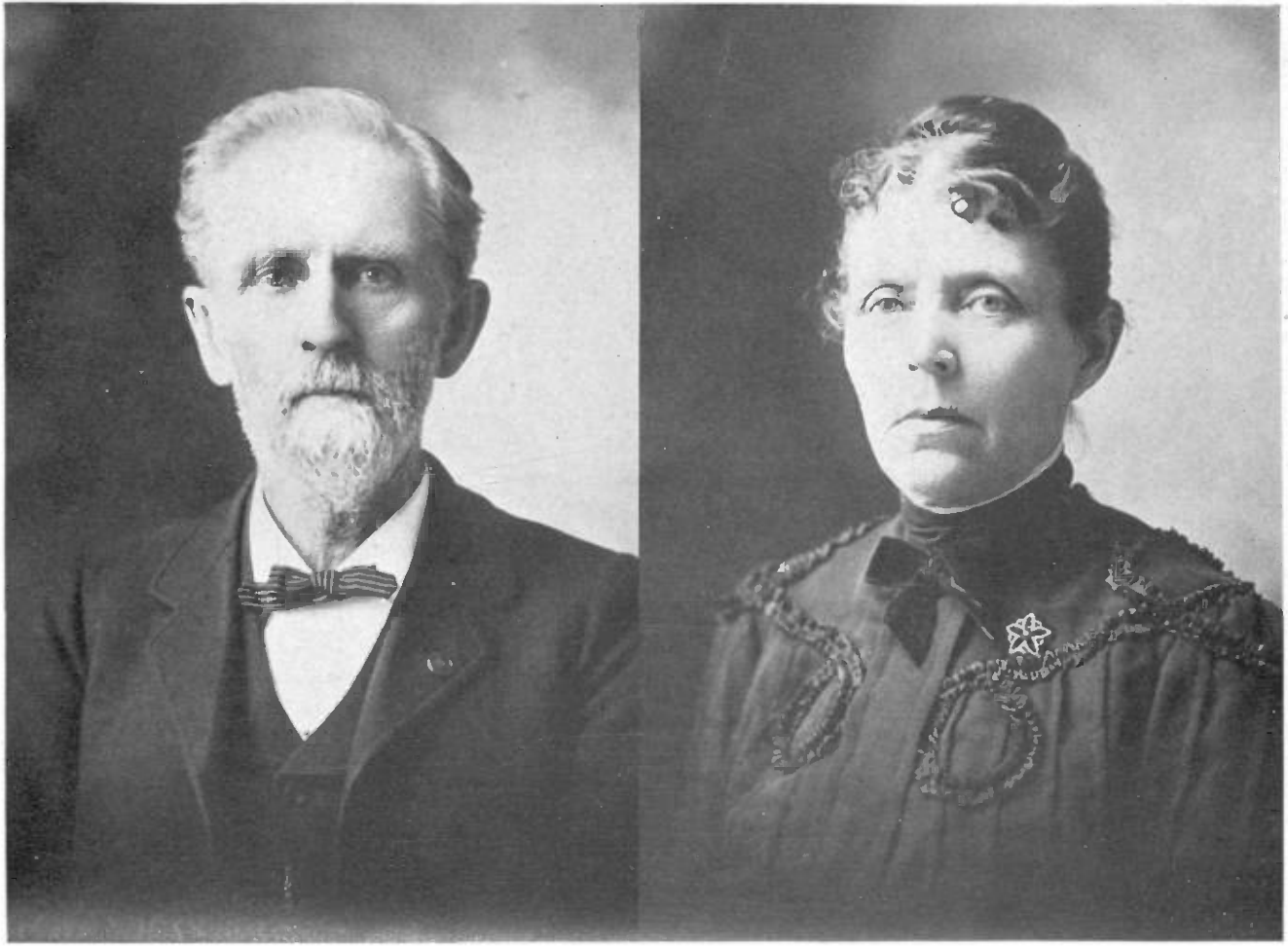
County Attorney. N. P. Colburn was probably the first regularly constituted county attorney of Fillmore county. Andrew Cole served as district attorney before Judge Andrew G. Chatfield at Winona, June 28, 1853. January 30, 1854, M. Wheeler Sargeant was appointed "to fill a vacancy." April 4, 1855, the

commissioners decided that H. B. Morse had been illegally elected and at once appointed him. H. C. Butler appears to have taken the office sometime before June, 1856. In 1857 Grove W. Willis and John R. Jones each received pay for services as district attorney. H. C. Butler seems to have been the last district attorney before the state was admitted, and Samuel Cole the first one afterward. In 1860, the commissioners appointed a committee to ascertain if the office existed. C. G. Ripley and N. P. Colburn both appear to have drawn pay for services as district attorneys in 1860. Since 1861 the list of county attorneys has been preserved as follows: 1861-62, N. P. Colburn; 1863-64, Reuben Wells; 1865-66, N. P. Colburn; 1867-68, Abram Bergen; 1869-71, J. D. Farmer; 1872-76, N. P. Colburn; 1877-80, J. D. Farmer; 1881-84, N. Kingsley; 1885-1890, Burdett Thayer; 1891-96, G. W. Rockwell; 1897-1902, John W. Hopp; 1903-08, R. J. Parker; 1909, John W. Hopp, to the present time.

Surveyor. C. R. Coryell was appointed surveyor of Fillmore county, July 8, 1853. Robert Pike, Jr., was appointed January 3, 1854, and H. L. Edwards was appointed August 28, 1854. In 1855, E. J. May and Y. P. Ropes were appointed. Charles M. Colby appears to have taken office in 1857. He was followed by G. D. Hawkins, who in turn was succeeded by D. C. Wilson on June 6, 1860. E. McMurtrie served from January, 1861, to the close of 1867, although O. H. Case did considerable of the county work during this period. John Gregor took office in January, 1869, and served until 1877. In 1877 and 1878 Samuel Freeman occupied the office. From 1879 to November 22, 1881, O. H. Case served. After his resignation, William Thatcher was appointed and served until the close of 1882. C. H. Brown served a term in 1883 and 1884 and was followed by L. B. Carpenter. Carpenter took office in January, 1885, and resigned April 24, of the same year, his unexpired term being filled by Samuel Freeman. In 1886 William Thatcher again became surveyor for the county. L. B. Carpenter again took the office and served in 1891 and 1892. O. H. Case again served from 1893 to 1900. L. H. Osterud assumed the duties of the office in January, 1901. In January, 1905, O. H. Case again became county surveyor and has served to the present time.

Court Commissioner. G. E. Dexter became court commissioner in January, 1864, and served until January, 1870. Reuben Wells then took office and served until January, 1888. A. R. Holman was elected for one term and served from January, 1892, to January, 1896. C. H. Conkey was elected in 1896, and re-elected in 1900 and 1904. The present court commissioner is A. W. Thompson.

Overseer of the Poor. In the early days various persons had



MR. AND MRS. E. V. FARRINGTON

charge of the poor of the county in various localities. September 9, 1864, an effort was made to systematize the business of looking after the poor by appointing a poor master at a salary of $100 a year. G. W. Eddy was appointed to this position. The present system of overseeing the county poor by providing them a home at the county farm was inaugurated in 1868, when J. H. Tedman was appointed overseer of the poor, he and his wife to receive $800 a year. Tedman served from 1868 to January, 1870. G. R. Cooley took office in January, 1870, and served until January, 1873. O. D. Hicks served one term, January, 1873, to January, 1875. A. French served in 1875, and a part of 1876. Avery Herrick took the position in March, 1876, and served until March 1, 1887. Horace Kingsbury then served one year. A. C. Seelye served three years from March 1, 1888, and was followed by W. C. Seelye, who served nearly two years. Hans Olson took the office January 5, 1893; Edward Erickson, October 1, 1897; Halvor Johnson, January 7, 1902; Tobias Alfson, January 6, 1903; Halvor Johnson, January 1, 1907, and Albert Helgeson, January 1, 1909.

Coroner. R. M. Foster appears to have been the first coroner of Fillmore county. J. M. Wheat who was elected to serve in 1862 refused to qualify, and William D. Lipe was appointed in his place. J. B. Fraser, who was elected to serve in 1863, refused to qualify and J. W. Crees was appointed. In 1868 the coroner was O. A. Case. Following him, from 1870 to 1880, came R. L. Moore, J. G. Beemis, H. C. Grover and Henry Jones. J. H. Phillips became county coroner in 1880. He served until 1887 and was succeeded by H. H. Haskins. Since then the coroners have been: 1889-90, H. Jones; 1891-92, H. C. Grover; 1893-96, J. H. Phillips; 1897-98, A. W. Powers; 1899-1901, E. E. Campbell; 1903 to the present time, W. B. Grinnell.

Present Officers. The principal officers of Fillmore county at present are: County auditor, George E. Weatherill; county treasurer, E. A. Highum; register of deeds, A. P. Nelson; judge of probate, D. K. Michener; county attorney, John W. Hopp; clerk of court, Henry A. Larson; sheriff, E. K. Blexrud; county superintendent, Oscar Carlson; coroner, Dr. W. B. Grinnell; county surveyor, O. H. Case; court commissioner and county abstractor, A. W. Thompson. Among other county officers may be mentioned: deputy clerk of court and deputy register of deeds, C. H. H. Dodge; clerk in office of county auditor and county treasurer, B. R. Danielson; clerk of probate court, Hazel Morgan; deputy sheriff and jailer, C. M. Strom; janitor of court house and deputy sheriff, George Hopp. The commissioners are: 1, Thore T. Johnson; 2, Leon Lillie; 3, J. L. Colby; 4, D. A. Mosher (chairman); 5, D. W. Bacon. The county physicians

from the five commissioner districts are as follows: 1, C. K. Onsgard and A. P. Lommer; 2, A. W. Powers and C. W. Woodruff; 3, W. N. Kendrick and E. V. Simons; 4, F. A. Gowdy and G. R. Love; 5, C. W. Cady and O. A. Kibbie.

COUNTY SEAT CHANGES.

As before stated, the act creating Fillmore county was vague as to its exact boundaries. But generally speaking the original county may be said to have contained the counties of Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted and Winona. A close study of the boundary lines as described in the act of creation would lead to the conclusion that parts of what are now Winona and Olmsted counties were included in what was then Wabasha county; parts of what are now Olmsted and Fillmore counties were included in what was then Rice county; and parts of what are now Mower and Steel counties were included in what was then Fillmore county. As the line on the west was described as running due northwest from the Iowa line, whereas the present western boundaries of Fillmore and Olmsted counties are at right angles to the Iowa line; and as a northern boundary running on a straight line and taking in all of Olmsted and Winona counties would also have to take in a portion of Wabasha county, it will readily be seen how inaccurate is the oft repeated statement that the original Fillmore county took in the entire area of what are now Winona, Fellmore, Houston and Olmsted counties. As the surveys were made this year (1853), and the boundaries accurately described the next year (1854), the exact extent of this original Fillmore county is not of vital importance.

The first board of commissioners of what was then Fillmore county met at the Winona Hotel, Winona, by common consent, May 28, 1853. The meetings immediately following were held as follows: June 4, 1853, home of John Burns, at the mouth of Burns' valley; July 4, 1853, Minneowah; July 5, 9, 22 and August 27, 1853, Winona Hotel, Winona.

It is now necessary to discuss the movements which led up to the taking of the county seat away from the Mississippi river, and finally in the dismemberment of the county.

In the fall of 1853, T. B. Twiford came into Fillmore county from Lansing, Iowa. In his prospecting excursions and explorations, he discovered the present site of Chatfield, in the northern part of what is now Fillmore county, and conceived the project of making it a town site. At Winona he formed the acquaintance of Grove W. Willis, and a scheme was concocted to form a stock company and make Twiford's newly discovered townsite the county seat of Fillmore county.

The plan proposed was to divide the stock into twelve shares. The shareholders were T. B. Twiford, G. W. Willis, H. C. Gere, Myron Toms, William B. Gere, Harvey Hubbard, John I. Hubbard, Robert Pike, Jr., James McClellan and W. B. Bunnell. It was designed that each of the members of the board of county commissioners would be presented with a share in the new town site—the proposed county seat. Mr. Luark, of the board was absent from the territory and John C. Laird, of the newly elected board was too strongly interested in Winona to be utilized. Neither of these men were shareholders in the project. Twiford and Willis put up a log shanty on the proposed town site, to which, at the suggestion of Bunnell, they gave the name of Chatfield, in honor of Judge Andrew G. Chatfield, and placed a man by the name of Case in the shanty to hold the locality for the company. It was generally known that the members of the old board of county commissioners, Gere and Toms, whose terms of office expired on January 1, 1854, were in favor of locating the county seat in the village selected by Twiford, but it was considered extremely doubtful if they had any authority to act in the matter. The law provided that it should be the duty of the first board of county commissioners elected, to locate the county seat. The first board was not elected but was appointed by Governor Willis A. Gorman, as provided by the act creating Fillmore county. In furtherance of their plans, however. Twiford and Wills of the appointed board assumed the authority to locate the county seat, although it was generally conceded by everyone that this power belonged to the first elected board.

December 19, 1853, Commissioners Henry C. Gere and Myron Toms, with G. M. Willis, acting as clerk, met at the residence of Mr. Case, in Root river precinct, town of Chatfield, "pursuant to agreement," and selected a county seat, the following entry appearing in the minutes: "The object of said meeting was to locate the county seat of said Fillmore county. It was then and there resolved that the county seat shall be located at Chatfield in the center of section 6, township 104, north, of range 11, west."

This board, however, never again met at Chatfield, their succeeding and final meeting being held December 27, at the home of W. B. Bunnell, in the Minneowah precinct.

The commissioners elected October 11, 1853, met January 2, 1854, at the home of Robert Pike, Jr., in Minnesota City. January 3 they met at the same place, with Commissioners Robert Pike, Jr., John C. Laird and Willard B. Bunnell and Clerk William B. Gere present. After transacting various business, "the board proceeded to ballot for the location of the county seat, which resulted in one vote for Winona, one for Chatfield and one

for Minnesota City. As the board could not agree on the location they decided that the location be postponed until a future meeting. The next meeting was held at the home of John C. Laird in Winona, January 7, 1854, all being present.

January 30, 1854, the board met at the home of Robert Pike, Jr., in Minnesota City, all being present. Among other business the following motion was passed: "In pursuance with, and in accordance with, the eighteenth section of the eleventh chapter of the Session Laws of Minnesota, passed by the legislative assembly at the session commencing January 5, 1853, the board of county commissioners proceeded to locate the county seat of Fillmore county. It was decided by the board of commissioners that the county seat of said Fillmore county should be at Chatfield in said county, on section 6, township 104, north, of range 11, west."

The meeting of March 14, 1854, was held at the home of John C. Laird in Winona. Commissioners Pike and Laird and Clerk Gere were present. This was the last meeting of the commissioners of Fillmore county ever held outside of the present limits of the county.

In the meantime, February 23, 1854, Houston and Winona counties had been set off, and Fillmore county assumed its present limits, with six townships in Olmsted county added.

April 7, 1854, Commissioners Pike and Bunnell and Clerk Gere met at Chatfield and transacted the business necessary to meet the new conditions caused by the curtailment of the lines of the county.

On August 28, 1854, the new commissioners appointed July 18, 1854, namely, T. B. Twiford, Elijah Austin and H. S. H. Hayes, met at Chatfield and subsequent meetings were held by the same board at the same place, October 2 and November 7. These meetings were probably held at the home of J. W. Sturges, for on October 2, 1854, the board contracted with Mr. Sturges for a room in his house at Chatfield to be used as a meeting place for the commissioners and as an office for the treasurer, sheriff, register of deeds and clerk of the district court, from July 16, 1854, to January 1, 1855, at $10 for a month. As most of the time contracted for had elapsed before the motion was made, the act was evidently in the way of a technicality in order that Mr. Sturges might collect for the use to which the room had already been put. Mr. Sturges was paid rent from July 16 to November 1, 1854. Thomas B. Twiford was paid rent for office room at Chatfield from November 1, 1854, to January 1, 1855.

The next county commissioners, George M. Gere (chairman), H. S. H. Hayes and E. P. Eddy, met at Chatfield January 1, 1855, and held sessions there January 3, February 20 and March 2.

The records are simply dated "Chatfield." April 3, 1855, the commissioners met, according to the records, at the office of W. B. Gere, register of deeds. The sessions of April 4 and July 2 were also held there. All these meetings during the first five months of 1855 were evidently held in a room rented from T. B. Twiford at Chatfield, for on July 3, 1855, Mr. Twiford was voted $10 a month from January 1 to June 1, 1855, for office rent.

Carimona was designated as the county seat of Fillmore county by an act of the Minnesota territorial legislature approved March 2, 1855. The bill was entitled "A Bill for an Act to Incorporate the Root River Valley and Southern Minnesota Railroad Company," but it carried many provisions not mentioned in the title, including the establishment of the county seat of Fillmore county at Carimona.

The first meeting held at Carimona was on July 3, 1855, and the county offices were evidently moved there shortly before that, for on that date, G. W. Willis presented a bill of $17.50 and was allowed $12 for the expense of moving to Carimona, and W. B. Gere presented a bill for $86.75 and was allowed $76.25 for services and for moving records, etc., from Chatfield to Carimona. The county business was then transacted at Carimona until the removal of the county seat to Preston.

The records of July 3 and 4 and October 2 and 3 are simply dated "Register's Office," but this office was evidently in the house of J. W. Brocket, for on October 3, 1855, he presented a bill for $35.10 and was allowed $20 for rent and for repairing the house for a meeting of the court. On the same day the board rented from Ezra Trask, for $75 per year, his "front room, upstairs."

The board for 1856 consisted of George M. Gere (chairman), H. S. Hayes and M. C. St. John, but Mr. St. John was not present at the first meeting, January 8. This meeting and those of January 9, 10, 11 and 12 were held at the office of S. B. Murrel, the new register of deeds. No location is given for the meeting of January 12. April 7 the meeting was held in the office of the register of deeds. No location is given of the meetings of April 8, 9 and 10, but the minutes of April 24 are dated Carimona, and the adjourned meeting of April 25 was of course held in the same place. Probably all these meetings from January 1, 1856, to April 25, 1856, were held in the room rented from Trask.

By an act of the legislature approved March 1, 1856, (introduced by Benjamin F. Tillotson, February 18, 1856), the voters of Fillmore county were authorized to vote for a point at which the county seat of Fillmore county should be located; the election to be held on the first Monday of April, 1856, and the votes to be confined to three points, Forestville, Carimona and Preston.

On the first Monday of April, 1856, the election was held, and resulted in Preston receiving the highest number of votes and the removal of the county seat to that place.

At a meeting of the county commissioners held at Carimona April 25, 1856, Preston was confirmed as the county seat. The motion was as follows: "The board ordered that the records and furniture of the county offices be removed to Preston, said point having received the largest number of votes at the election held in said county April 7, 1856."

April 26, 1856, the board met at Preston, all the members being present. Block 10 in the town of Preston was selected as the site upon which to erect the county buildings.

Since that date the county seat has been at Preston, and there the beautiful court house, jail and sheriff's residence are now located.

After the board had confirmed the action of the voters in designating Preston the county seat, John Kaercher sent a team to Carimona for the records, and W. W. Fife went along to assist in the removal. He bought two coffee sacks for 50 cents and these were amply large for the books and documents. With them came S. B. Murrel, register of deeds, and Grove W. Willis, clerk of court, who seemed to constitute nearly the entire court house personnel. The small frame building now occupied by Mrs. Carl F. Krause on Mill street was promptly turned into a court house, and this particular building enjoys the distinction of having once had a United States court within its walls.

The people having declared in favor of Preston as a county seat, the people of Carimona, in 1859, tried another method of getting it back. They presented a petition to the supervisors of the county, September 15, 1859, asking that the county seat be established at Carimona. The vote when taken stood eleven for Preston and ten for Carimona.

Once again the people of Carimona made an effort to have the county seat located in that village. February 20, 1863, the legislature passed an act removing the county seat to Carimona, subject to the approval of the majority of the legal voters of the county, and on the strength of this, William Meighen, William H. Strong and James A. Rossman gave a $20,000 bond to the county commissioners, pledging themselves, in case the vote was in favor of Carimona, to convey or cause to be conveyed to the county block 10 in the village of Carimona, and to cause to be erected on or before June 1, 1865, "complete upon said block and have ready to be occupied as a court house and for other county purposes, a brick building two stories high, fifty feet front and sixty feet in depth, according to the specifications hereto annexed, the above mentioned building to be erected and

completed free of all expense to the said county and the same and said land to be conveyed, erected, completed and furnished to said county as an absolute, entire and perfect free gift and donation in every particular." The people again, however, declared in favor of Preston.

COUNTY PROPERTY.

Court House. Various places in Preston were used for offices for the county officers, for the sessions of court, and for the meetings of the commissioners and supervisors, in the early days, but the county headquarters, generally speaking, were in a building which occupied the site of what is now the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank. In September, 1859, the board of supervisors took up the matter of county buildings, and found that there had been placed on file thirty-three bonds (one withdrawn for correction) to support an agreement of free rent of a hall for two years, and seven deeds conveying to the county thirty-six lots and four half lots in the village of Preston. These documents were all signed on the condition that the county erect a court house in the village of Preston, at a cost of not less than $6,000 within two years of September 15, 1859. The documents were accepted on that condition.

At the same time there had been placed on file a deed from H. C. Butler conveying to the county block 10, in the village of Carimona, and leasing to the county, free of all charges, for three years, the upper story of the block built by W. H. Strong.

Court house square was platted for county purposes when the original village of Preston was laid out. The deed conveying the property was formally received by the county commissioners, April 5, 1863, bearing the names of Barbara Schweitzer and John Kaercher. On the same date the commissioners received and accepted an offer from the County Court House Building Association, through the executive committee, A. S. Linsley and Reuben Wells, to erect a court house free of charge to the county.

A meeting having been held by the citizens of Preston, February 24, 1863, at which it was decided to erect on the public square a brick court house, fifty feet square and two stories high, a subscription paper was passed, and the signers agreed to furnish, as required, money, labor or material, before August 1, 1863. The cash furnished was used to purchase material, which was put together by those who had agreed to furnish labor.

The list, found among the papers of the late S. B. Murrel was as follows: Jeremiah O'Brien, material $25, cash $25; Michael Hopp, mason work $50; Joseph Palmer, work $15; A. Rappe, mason work $40, cash $10; William Sawyer, twenty days' work

$30; William M. Taylor, cash $10, work $15; F. M. Knight, cash $10; Menno Eby, work $40; Frederick Whiting, work $25; Andrew Fetch, ten days' work $15; W. Galbraith, ten days' work, $15; William K. Read, work $40; R. F. C. Kent, work $20; Daniel O'Brien, work $25, cash $25; Martin Weybright, work $10; Perry Long, team work $25; Jonas Maust, work $25; Anton Ibach, work $50; Charles Huttig, work $25, cash $10; B. S. Loomis, work $20; John Taylor, work $25; William Taylor, work $25; S. M. Shook, fifteen days' work $30; Michael Neuman, work $25; Reuben Wells, cash $30; W. R. Underwood, work $25; Thomas Quinn, $35; F. Huttig, $10; Patrick McCabe, work $10; F. Read, four days' work $6; D. C. Kerr, twenty days' work; Richard Madigan, five days' work $10; William Seely, twelve days' work $24; E. Newton, Jr., cash $10; Jeremiah Shook, five days' work $10; Richard Hahn, cash $10; Dennis Flattery, five days' work; Alex Wright, cash $25; J. J. Merrill, work $25; Simon Dodge, work $10; E. Gould, five days' work; John Riehl, fifteen days' work; Joseph Ibach, $10 cash, work $15; M. E. Billings, ten days' mechanical work.

The court house was formally accepted by the county, July 4, 1864, and the following persons released from their bonds: S. B. Murrel, William W. Fife, D. B. Colman, Conkey Brothers and J. C. Easton. This court house was the main portion of the present court house. A bell was placed in the tower in 1865.

The two wings to the court house were completed in the fall of 1884, H. J. Anderson having the contract, and Thomas Quinn, a member of the Board of County Commissioners and appointed to represent them, working by the day. The matter of adding to the court house or building a new one had been agitated for some time, and matters were brought to a climax in the spring of 1884, when the grand jury condemned the old vault as unsafe for the storing of the valuable county records.

County Jail. After the court house was built, the old jail on the present site of the Farmers' and Merchants' State Bank, continued to be used until January 6, 1870, when a jail, on the present site of the new jail, was formally accepted by the county commissioners. The first step toward building the jail was taken January 5, 1866, when the commissioners asked Dr. Luke Miller to request the legislature to pass a bill looking toward the erection of a suitable jail in Fillmore county.

September 5, 1868, the following resolution was passed by the board: "That the board of commissioners of Fillmore county will, for and in said county, erect a new county jail for the safe keeping of prisoners, and that a committee of the following members of the board, to-wit: D. B. Coleman, Orsin Holmes, and W. A. Pease, be appointed to select and purchase ground for a

site for said jail, and to procure plans and specifications, determine upon and arrange details, and execute a contract for building said jail, and that there be issued bonds of the county to an amount not exceeding $8,000, for the purpose of building and furnishing said jail." Two months later the board appropriated the sum of $750 from the county fund for the purpose of paying for lots on which to build the county jail, and to get plans and specifications.

County Poor Farm. This establishment contains 386 acres of very desirable farming land, located on the town line between Canton and Amherst. This land was acquired by B. F. Tillotson in 1853, and was sold by him to the county in the spring of 1868. The price was about $9,000 for the farm and a small amount of personal property.

On July 2, 1868, the board made a contract with Burr Dauchy to build a house for the poor of Fillmore county, on the poor farm, and passed a resolution to the effect that the sum of $2,000 be appropriated for this purpose. At their meeting on September 4, 1868, an additional appropriation of $3,000 was made for the purpose of purchasing stock, furniture and other necessary articles for use on the county poor farm. The old almshouse was burned April 14, 1896, and a new one erected at a cost of $6,660.

Of the 386 acres in the farm, 240 are in sections 33 and 34, Amherst, and 146 in sections 3 and 4, Canton. The value of the real estate is $26,000 and the value of the personal property, $9,000. The buildings are valued at $6,000. The main house is large, sanitary and commodious, steam heated, and furnished with running water and other conveniences. The barns are large and well kept. The present overseer of the poor is Albert Helgeson.

CHAPTER IX.

COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

Fillmore County in Seventh, Fourth and Eighth Council Districts—Constitutional Convention—Fillmore County in Ninth, Fourteenth, Second and Third, Second, and Fifth Districts—Congressional Representation—Edited by Samuel A. Langum.

On July 7, 1849, Gov. Alexander Ramsey, by proclamation, divided the territory of Minnesota into council districts; Fillmore county, with the rest of southern Minnesota (exclusive of the settlements on the banks of the Mississippi), coming within the limits of the seventh district.

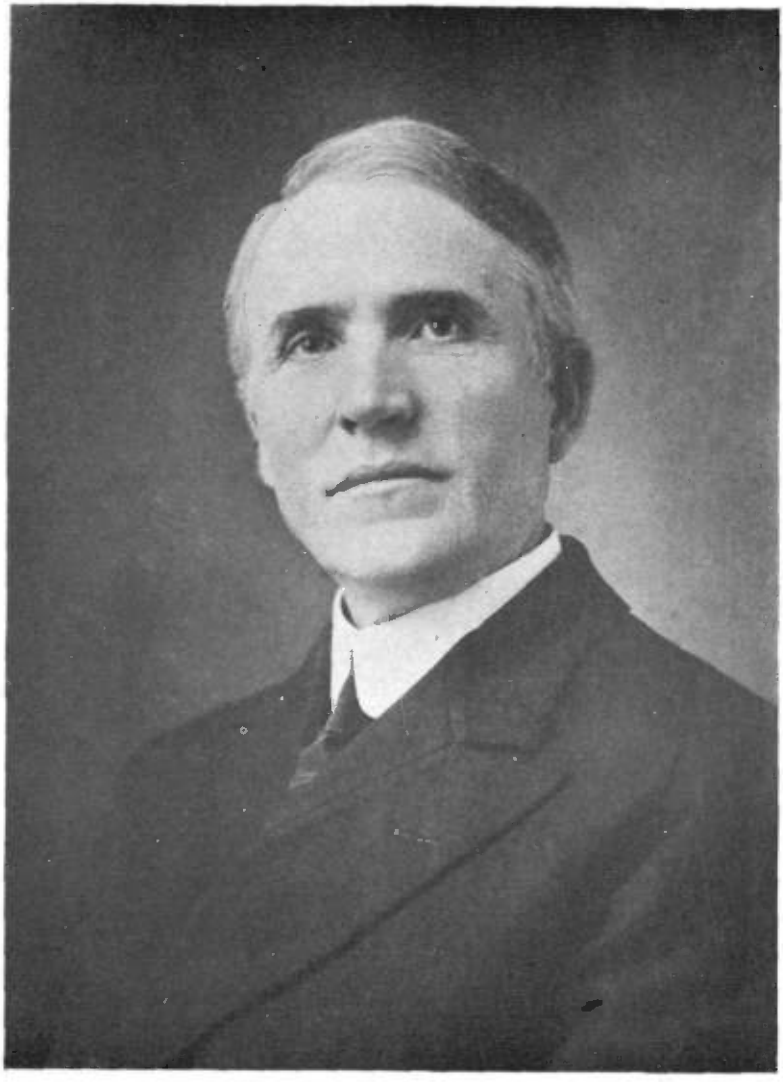
1849—The first territorial legislature met on September 3, and adjourned November 1. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle, and in the house by Alexis Bailly, of Mendota, and Gideon H. Pond, of Oak Grove. Although Fillmore was included in the seventh district, no settlers had at that time located within the present limits of the county.

1851—The second territorial legislature assembled January 1, and adjourned March 31. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle, and in the house by B. H. Randall, of Ft. Snelling, and Alexander Faribault, of Faribault. Fillmore county was still practically without settlers. By the apportionment of this legislature, the counties of Wabasha and Washington, and the precincts of St. Paul and Little Canada (Wabasha county to be one representative district), were to constitute the fourth district. Wabasha then included Fillmore county.

1852—The third territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The fourth district was represented in the council by Lorenzo A. Babcock, of Sauk Rapids; and in the house by Fordyce S. Richards, of Reed's Landing.

1853—The fourth territorial legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The fourth district was represented in the council by Lorenzo A. Babcock and in the house by James Wells, from the head of Lake Pepin. At this session Fillmore county was created, but until the apportionment of 1855, the fourth district remained as established by the apportionment of 1851.

1854—The fifth territorial legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fourth district was represented by



S. A. LANGUM

William Freeborn, of Red Wing, in the council, and O. M. Lord, of Minnesota City, in the house.

1855—The sixth territorial legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. William Freeborn represented the fourth district in the council and Clark W. Thompson, of what is now Houston county, in the house. By the apportionment of this legislature, Houston, Fillmore and Mower counties were constituted the eighth district. It was this legislature that reduced Fillmore county to its present boundaries.

1856—The seventh territorial legislature assembled January 2, and adjourned March 1. The eighth district was represented in the seventh territorial legislature by Clark W. Thompson, of Houston county, and Benjamin F. Tillotson, of Fillmore county, in the council; and by W. B. Gere, of Fillmore county, Samuel Hull, William F. Dunbar, William B. Covell and Martin G. Thompson in the house.

1857—The eighth territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. Clark W. Thompson and Benjamin F. Tillotson again represented the eighth district in the council. The representatives in the house were William B. Gere, D. F. Chase, W. J. Howell, John M. Berry and M. G. Thompson. An extra session of this legislature assembled April 27 and adjourned May 23, 1857.

Constitutional Convention. March 3, 1857, congress passed an act authorizing the people to form a state constitution. Each council district was to be represented in this convention by two members for each councilman and representative to which it was entitled. The eighth district, consisting of Houston, Fillmore and Mower counties, was to have fourteen delegates of whom six were to be from Fillmore county. The constitutional convention, consisting of 108 members, was authorized to meet at the capital on the second Monday in July to frame a state constitution, and to submit it to the people of the territory. The election, already mentioned, was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. July 13 the delegates met, but a disagreement arising in the organization, the Republican members organized one body and the Democrats organized separately. Each of these bodies, claiming to be the legally constituted convention, proceeded with the work of forming an instrument to be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them, and by means of a committee of conference, the same constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people, October 13, it was ratified.

Of the fourteen delegates from the eighth district, thirteen sat on the Republican wing and one on the Democratic wing.

They were: Republicans—Alanson B. Vaughan, C. W. Thompson, John A. Anderson, Charles A. Coe, N. P. Colburn, James A. McCann, H. A. Billings, Charles Hanson, H. W. Holley, John Cleghorn, A. H. Butler, Robert Lyle and Boyd Phelps. Democrat—James C. Day. The six Republicans from Fillmore county were: H. A. Billings, of Spring Valley; H. W. Holley, of Chatfield; A. H. Butler, of Newburg; N. P. Colburn, of Carimona; John Cleghorn, of Elliota, and Charles Hanson, of York.

By the apportionment of 1857, set forth in the state constitution adopted October 13, 1857, Fillmore county constituted the ninth legislative district, and was to have two senators and six representatives.

1857-58—The first state legislature assembled December 2, 1857. On March 25, 1858, it took a recess until June 2, and finally adjourned August 12. The ninth district was represented in the senate by Samuel Hill and John R. Jones. In the house the members were J. T. Eames, Isaac De Cow, M. J. Foster, Henry Kibler, James M. Graham and T. J. Fladeland.

1858-59—No session was held in the winter of 1858-59, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-58, which was believed to render unnecessary another one following so soon, the legislators of that year having so provided by enactment.

1859-60—The second state legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. The ninth district was represented in the senate by H. W. Holley and Reuben Wells and in the house by A. H. Trow, A. H. Butler, William Meighen, C. D. Sherwood, Daniel Dayton and Hiram Walker. By the apportionment of 1860, Fillmore county was made to constitute the fourteenth district, with one senator and three representatives.

1861—The third state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by H. W. Holley and in the house by A. H. Butler, C. D. Sherwood and J. P. Howe.

1862—The fourth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by A. H. Butler, Peter Peterson and John McGrew. On account of the Indian outbreak an extra session was called by the governor, and it assembled September 9 and adjourned September 29.

1863—The fifth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by C. D. Sherwood, Hiram Walker and William Chalfant. C. D. Sherwood was speaker of the house.

1864—The sixth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 4. The fourteenth district was represented

in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by S. A. Hunt, M. J. Foster and Reuben Whittemore. C. D. Sherwood, as lieutenant governor, was president of the senate.

1865—The seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by William Chalfant and E. F. West. C. D. Sherwood, as lieutenant governor, was president of the senate.

1866—The eighth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by J. Q. Farmer, William Chalfant and John Hobart. By the reapportionment of 1866 Fillmore county still remained the fourteenth district, but was given one more representative.

1867—The ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The representatives from the fourteenth district were Dr. Luke Miller in the senate and W. W. Braden, N. P. Colburn, J. Q. Farmer and G. Oleson in the house. John Q. Farmer was speaker of the house.

1868—The tenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by Dr. Luke Miller and in the house by John Q. Farmer, Hiram Walker, W. W. Braden and William Meighen. John Q. Farmer was speaker of the house.

1869—The eleventh state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by A. Bergen and in the house by D. D. Hammer, John Hobart, J. G. McGrew and William Meighen.

1870—The twelfth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by D. B. Sprague and in the house by William Barton, Ole C. Bratrud, M. Scanlan and S. G. Canfield.

1871—The thirteenth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 3. The fourteenth district was represented in the senate by John Q. Farmer and in the house by N. P. Colburn, H. S. Griswold, Hans Valder and J. E. Atwater. By the apportionment of 1871, Fillmore county was constituted the second and third districts, with one senator and three representatives from each district. The second district was to consist of the city of Rushford and the townships of Arendahl, Rushford, Carrollton, Holt, Norway, Preston, Amherst, Preble, Harmony, Canton and Newburg. The senator and the three representatives in the second district were to be elected at large. The third district consisted of the townships of Sumner, Jordan, Chatfield, Pilot Mound, Spring Valley, Fillmore, Fountain, Bloomfield, Forestville, Carimona, Beaver, York and Bristol. The senator was to

be elected at large. One representative was to be elected from Pilot Mound, Chatfield, Jordan and Sumner; one from Spring Valley, Fillmore, Fountain and Carimona, and one from Bloomfield, Forestville, Beaver, York and Bristol.

1872—The fourteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by Thomas H. Everts and John Q. Farmer and in the house by John Larson, A. H. H. Dayton, L. Bothum, A. H. Trow, M. Eggleston and P. McCracken.

1873—The fifteenth legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by T. H. Everts and William Meighen and in the house by Arne Arneson, Horace Wheeler, Niles Carpenter, T. P. Baldwin, H. M. Daniels and Peter McCracken.

1874—The sixteenth legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by C. H. Conkey and William Meighen, and in the house by W. N. Gilmore, A. K. Hanson, J. G. Gere, W. A. Pease, Robert L. Fleming and J. W. Graling.

1875—The seventeenth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by C. H. Conkey and William Meighen and in the house by H. C. Grover, J. M. Wheat, N. E. Ellerson, E. V. Farrington, R. J. Fleming and Dwight Rathbun.

1876—The eighteenth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by C. H. Conkey and William Meighen, and in the house by H. M. Onstine, O. E. Boyum, Tallak Brokken, C. Robbins, George Andrus and Dwight Rathbun.

1877—The nineteenth legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by C. H. Conkey and C. G. Edwards and in the house by H. C. Grover, J. M. Wheat, Frank Erickson, Dwight Rathbun, Seger Berg and P. M. Mosher.

1878—The twentieth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by J. M. Wheat and C. G. Edwards and in the house by H. Christopherson, Daniel Currie, Hans Gunvalson, C. H. Colby, Francis Hall and P. M. Mosher.

1879—The twenty-first legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The second and third districts were represented in the senate by J. M. Wheat and C. S. Powers and in the house by G. C. Grover, Ole O. Stedjee, Nels Ellertson, E. V. Farrington, J. N. Graling and Peter McCracken.

1881—The twenty-second legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The second and third districts were repre-

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sented in the senate by J. M. Wheat and C. S. Powers and in the house by G. A. Hayes, Ole O. Stedjee, E. Lovland, J. N. Graling, P. McCracken and George Andrus. This was the first of the biennial sessions. Since that date the legislature has assembled every alternate year. An extra session of the 1881 legislature was called to consider legislation in regard to the state railroad bonds. The session commenced October 11 and closed November 13. By the apportionment of 1881, Fillmore county was made the second district, with one senator and five representatives.

1883—The twenty-third legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The second district was represented in the senate by J. M. Wheat and in the house by R. R. Greer, A. Plummer, Burdett Thayer, R. E. Thompson and C. T. Baarnaas.

1885—The twenty-fourth legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The second district was represented in the senate by J. M. Wheat and in the house by M. A. Maland, R. E. Thompson, O. G. Wall, O. H. Case and D. K. Michener.

1887—The twenty-fifth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The second district was represented in the senate by C. G. Edwards and in the house by S. G. Iverson, T. Tousley, Charles M. Colby, L. H. Prosser and O. J. Hattlestad.

1889—The twenty-sixth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 23. The second district was represented in the senate by C. G. Edwards and in the house by M. A. Maland, J. H. Phillips, John N. Johnson, Orrin Turber and E. R. Morris. By the apportionment of 1889, Fillmore county remained the second district, but its representation was cut down to one senator and three representatives.

1891—The twenty-seventh legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 20. The second district was represented in the senate by E. D. Hammer and in the house by Ole P. Hadland, J. R. Nelson and A. H. Gilmore.

1893—The twenty-eighth legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The second district was represented in the senate by E. D. Hammer and in the house by John R. Nelson, S. A. Langum and C. L. Wooldridge.

1895—The twenty-ninth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 23. The second district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson and in the house by E. Johnson, D. M. Leach and C. L. Wooldridge.

1897—The thirtieth legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 21. The second district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson and in the house by D. M. Leach, L. S. St. John and N. O. Henderson. By the apportionment of 1897, Fillmore county was constituted the fifth district with one senator and two representatives.

1899—The thirty-first legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The fifth district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson, and in the house by N. O. Henderson and C. D. Allen.

1901—The thirty-second legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 12. The fifth district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson, and in the house by J. H. Burns and C. D. Allen. An extra session to consider the report of the tax commission assembled February 4, 1902, and adjourned March 11.

1903—The thirty-third legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 12. The fifth district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson, and in the house by J. H. Burns and S. A. Nelson.

1905—The thirty-fourth legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned April 18. The fifth district was represented in the senate by R. E. Thompson, and in the house by O. N. Thundale and Burdett Thayer.

1907—The thirty-fifth legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned April 24. The fifth district was represented in the Senate by S. A. Nelson, and in the house by O. N. Thundale and Burdett Thayer.

1909—The thirty-sixth legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned April 22. The fifth district was represented in the senate by S. A. Nelson, and in the house by Burdett Thayer and John Rustad.

1911—The thirty-seventh legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned April 19. The fifth district was represented in the senate by S. A. Nelson, and in the house by John O. Rustad and Thomas Frankson.

CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

The first congressional district in which from the time of the admission of Minnesota as a state Fillmore county has been included, has been represented in congress as follows: J. A. Cavanaugh, Democrat, March 12, 1859, to March 4, 1859; William Windom, Republican, March 4, 1859, to March 4, 1869; Morton S. Wilkinson, Republican, March 4, 1869, to March, 1871; Mark H. Dunnell, Republican, March 4, 1871, to March 4, 1883; Milo White, Republican, March 4, 1883, to March 4, 1887; Thomas Wilson, Democrat, March 4, 1887, to March 4, 1889; Mark H. Dunnell, Republican, March 4, 1889, to March 4, 1891; W. H. Harries, Democrat, March 4, 1891, to March 4, 1893; James A. Tawney, Republican, March 4, 1893, to March 4, 1911; Sidney A. Anderson, progressive Republican, March 4, 1911, to March 4, 1913.

Until Minnesota became a state it had only one representative in congress, a territorial delegate, who was not allowed to vote. The first territorial delegate from Minnesota was Henry H. Sibley, who was first sent ostensibly as a delegate from the territory of Wisconsin, though living on the present site of Mendota at the mouth of the Minnesota river. He sat as a territorial delegate from January 15, 1849, to December 5, 1853. He was succeeded by Henry M. Rice, who served until December 7, 1857. W. W. Kingsbury was elected to succeed him and served until December 6, 1858. As has been noted, the United States senate February 23, 1857, passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a constitution preparatory to their admission to the Union. In accordance with the provisions of this enabling act, a constitutional convention was held July 13, 1857, at the territorial capital. October 13, 1857, an election was held, when the constitution was adopted and a full list of state officers elected. Three congressmen were also elected at this time: George L. Becker, W. W. Phelps and J. M. Cavanaugh. But it was afterward found that Minnesota was entitled to only two congressmen and the matter was amicably adjusted by the withdrawal of Mr. Becker. By this election the Messrs. Phelps and Cavanaugh became the first members of congress from the state of Minnesota.

In the winter of 1857-58 the legislature divided the state into two congressional districts, the southern part becoming the first congressional district and the northern part the second, Fillmore county thus becoming a part of the first congressional district. By the apportionment of 1872, the state was divided into three congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Winona, Houston, Olmsted, Fillmore, Dodge, Steele, Mower, Freeborn, Waseca, Faribault, Blue Earth, Wartonwan, Martin, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock.

By the apportionment of 1881 the state was divided into five congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Houston, Fillmore, Mower, Freeborn, Steele, Dodge, Olmsted, Winona and Wabasha.

By the apportionment of 1891 the state was divided into seven congressional districts. The first district contained the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

By the apportionment of 1901 the state was divided into nine congressional districts. This apportionment has continued to the present day. The first district now consists of the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca and Winona.

CHAPTER X.

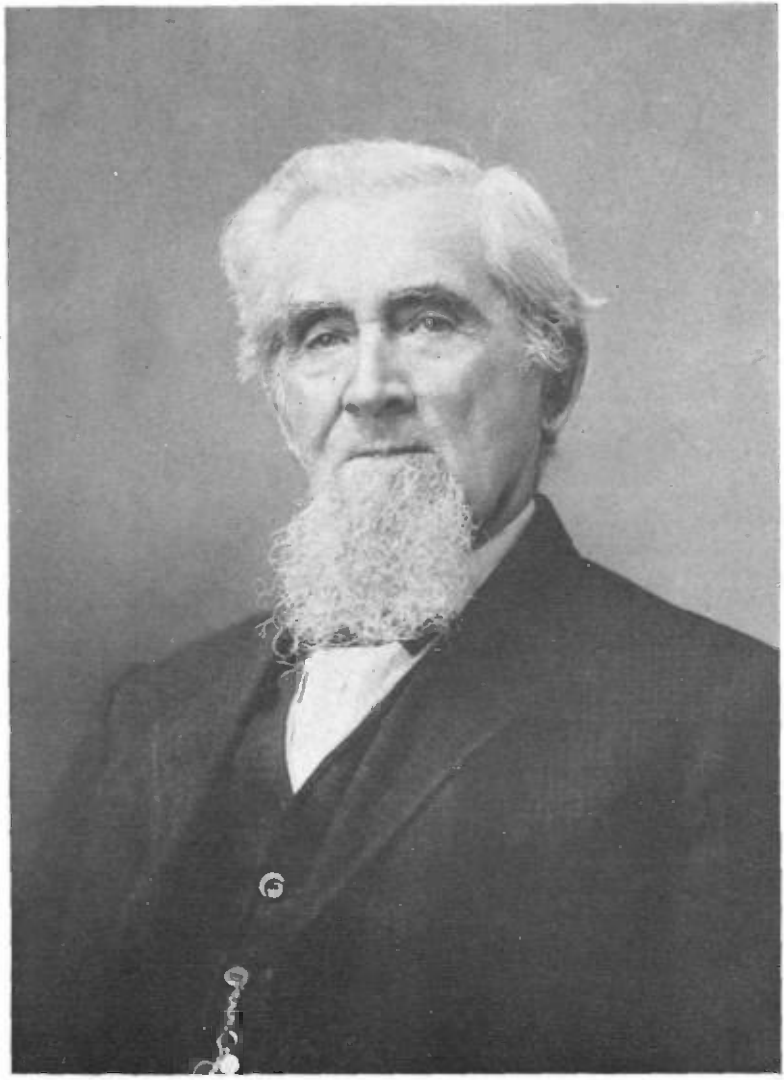
EARLY DAYS.

Early Routes of Travel—Difficulty of Carting Produce to Market—Hardships Endured by the Pioneers—Changes in Methods of Agriculture—Stories and Incidents Which Are Now Nearly Forgotten—The Fillmore County Moonshiners—By William Willford.

More than a half century ago when the staple crop in Fillmore county was wheat, a "state line" or main thoroughfare was established that crossed the township of Newburg near Mabel. It started as far west as range 13 and over it the early settlers of the southern part of Fillmore county, and the northern part of Howard and Winneshiek counties in the state of Iowa, traveled to market their wheat and dressed pork at Brownsville, Minn., and La Crosse, Wis., both on the Mississippi river. The distance from the eastern part of Fillmore county to Brownsville was about forty miles, and to La Crosse about fifty-five miles, but many of the settlers had to travel from sixty to sixty-five miles to reach these market points. This route took an easterly direction by Elliota and entered Newburg township (town 101, range 8), near the southwest corner of section 31; then running in a northeasterly direction; crossing sections 27 and 26; and passing a hamlet on section 25 known as Belleville. The route entered Houston county, in section 30, town 101, range 7, thence running in a northeasterly direction across Houston county, by the way of what was known by the teamsters as Norwegian Ridge, through Caledonia to Brownsville.

Another market thoroughfare started in the south central part of Fillmore county, running in an easterly direction, by the way of Lenora and Newburg in Fillmore county, and Riceford in Houston county, and making a union with the state line route on Norwegian Ridge. All the teamsters that desired to market at La Crosse, left this main thoroughfare at Caledonia, and going by the way of Hokah could reach La Crosse by crossing the Mississippi river on a ferry boat.

The grain and pork was marketed in the late fall and in the winter time, but largely in the winter months. The marketing of wheat in the winter time was what tried the settlers as to their grit and endurance, especially when the thermometers registered



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30 and 35 degrees below zero, and the ground was covered with about a foot or more of snow. At times it was not so cold, but the teamsters had to encounter a good stiff wind that made huge snowdrifts, and filled the sleigh tracks full of snow immediately after they were made, so that the teams had to be depended on to follow the road, as it was impossible for the drivers to discern them. The teams used at this period on the farms and the hauling of grain to market were of both oxen and horses.

The clothing of the settlers in the fifties was mostly home-made and largely flannel and a fabric called linsey. The settlers when marketing their wheat and pork in the winter time were clad in the following manner: Flannel undershirt and drawers; linsey shirt; a vest; a coat; home-made woolen pantaloons that were lined; a cloth, muskrat or coonskin cap; and woolen mittens faced with cloth or deerskin. The footwear consisted of a pair of woolen socks, and cow hide boots. Overcoats and overshoes were to them unknown. In the latter part of the fifties came a substitute for the cow hide boots known as "shoe packs," which were made out of cow hide that was tanned with what was called the "oil process" and made similar to an Indian moccasin, with two straps coming together over the instep of the foot and fastened with a buckle. Later another style of footwear was used, called "boot packs," made of the same kind of material, and the same shape as the "shoe packs" only with the leg added.

The loads of wheat hauled over this great thoroughfare consisted of thirty to forty bushels to each load and it usually took Fillmore county settlers three days to market a load of wheat or pork in favorable weather. But it often required one or two days longer to make the trip when the snow was deep and the weather cold and stormy. If the roads were badly cut up with "pitch holes" the locomotion was very slow and tedious indeed.

In the winter of 1856 and 1857 the "pitch holes" were so large that a great portion of the farmers sold their loads of wheat in Caledonia to a man who was prepared to buy in emergency cases, paying 20 to 30 cents per bushel and perhaps making part payment in goods out of his store, for which he charged almost unheard of prices. The market price for No. 1 wheat in Brownsville and La Crosse in the fifties ranged from 30 to 60 cents per bushel. In 1857, the time of the panic, Fillmore county settlers delivered dressed pork in La Crosse and sold it for $2 per hundred weight and were paid off in what was called "wild cat" money that might, perhaps, be worth its face value when the settler arrived home, or might not be worth a penny. In June, 1858, the writer delivered a load of good No. 1 wheat in McGregor, Iowa, and sold it for 45 cents per bushel. It took four days to make the trip.

C. A. Webster, better known as "Put" Webster, had an experience with "pitch holes" when on one of his trips to Brownsville in wheat growing times. He left his home in Winneshiek county, Iowa, on a midwinter day in the fifties, when the ground was covered with a thick blanket of snow, with a horse team hitched to a long sled on which was loaded about forty bushels of wheat. His brother T. R., with a team and also a load of wheat, accompanied him, both bound for Brownsville. All went well and no trouble was experienced in crossing the "pitch holes," which they found to be many, until they had passed the point on Norwegian Ridge, where the Lenora, Newburg and Riceford route formed a junction with the state line route, and from there the "pitch holes" became more numerous and larger. In one of these huge "pitch holes" the roller to which the tongue of Mr. Webster's sled was fastened broke, thereby leaving him remote from any habitation with a tongueless sled, and no way of repairing it. Thoughtfully, on leaving home, he had put a log chain in his sleigh box, which he could use in case of an accident or emergency. He got the chain and fastened it to the ends of the runners of his sled, and the whiffletrees to the center of the chain. As he was putting the tongue of his sled on the load of wheat he discovered a score or more of wheat haulers coming behind him. In an instant a thought flashed in his mind that if all those teams succeeded in passing him he would be doomed for a night's drive, as all the hotels would be filled. He hastily hitched his horses to his tongueless sled and seating himself on the load, not forgetting to brace himself well with his feet and legs, he started for Hotel Burns, four miles west of Caledonia. He went down in the "pitch holes" at an angle of 45 degrees on the double quick, and out at about the same angle but not the same speed. He soon arrived at the hill going east off of Norwegian Ridge, and on casting his eyes down the long and steep descent hesitated for a moment whether he dared to risk taking the perilous ride that flashed before his imagination. But as he was speeding rapidly down the hill he determined to take his life in his hands and chance the result. He beckoned to those ahead of him to get out of the road, which they did instantly, and away he went at a breakneck speed, the farther the faster, until he reached the bottom of the hill, and at this time the momentum was so great that he soon was at the top of the hill toward Hotel Burns. He arrived at Hotel Burns in advance of the score or more of teams that followed him, repaired his sled and made the round trip in the usual time.

The log cabins of the Fillmore county pioneers were not a pretty bit of architecture, but the settlers did not contemplate remaining always in such an humble and primitive habitation. It

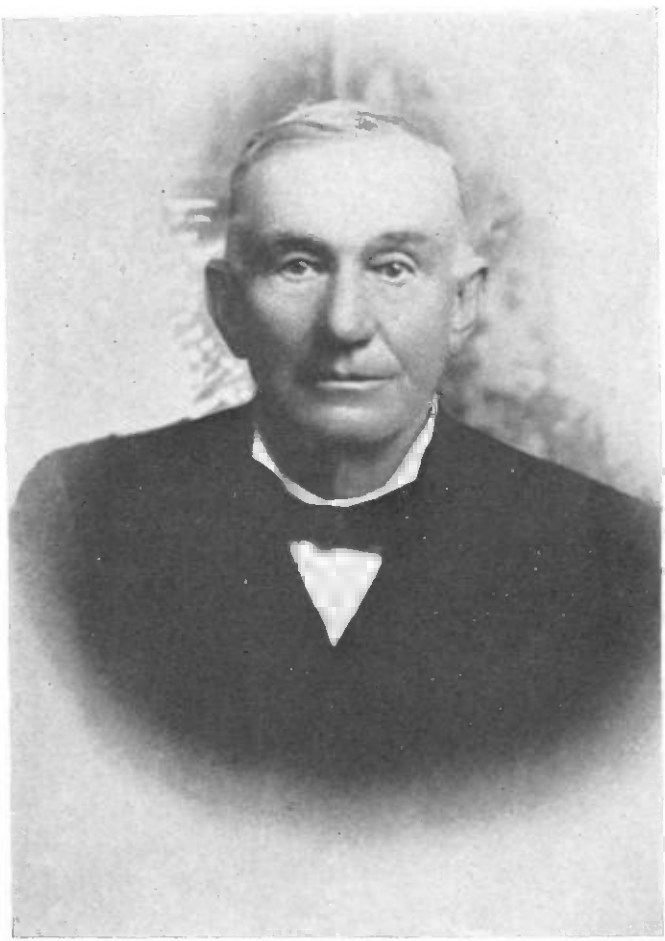
was "tough sledding," especially in 1857, which was the time of the panic, but they stuck to their claims and raised wheat which they were compelled to market at some point on the Mississippi river, and by and by many of them built frame buildings which were not so pretentious as are the houses of today, but in those days, by comparison, fine mansions. All the while they worked from daylight to darkness, and when they could no longer see their way to plow and hoe in the fields they worked with their brain—planning to solve the many problems of life in frontier Minnesota, for Fillmore county back in the fifties was real frontierish in its environment.

When the panic of 1857 struck Fillmore county it was sparsely settled, and many of the settlers who were somewhat isolated from their neighbors became discouraged and gave up. They had braved the hardships of pioneering as long as they cared to, they remembered the trail that led them Minnesotaward, and many a dilapidated covered wagon squeaking aloud for want of axle grease trundled its way across the hills, valleys and fertile prairies out of Minnesota and back to Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and other of the older states, never to return. Truly the outlook at this period was very discouraging. But many of the middle-aged and the young men who came here from an old settled country and who financially were poor were fortified with two attributes of success—foresight and grit. Their foresight told them that the discouraging conditions were only temporary. Their grit gave them the necessary staying power. Those that stayed had their judgment verified, and although they suffered extreme privations, a few years brought a gradual change for the better. Even then prosperity was written only in the dictionary, and dictionaries were scarce in Fillmore county those days. But through it all the men of grit and foresight battled on, and after a while they moved from their first frame house into a better one—very much the same type of architecture, but larger. The pioneers of Fillmore county have only done as hundreds, yes, thousands of other Minnesota pioneers have done. All over Minnesota such men and such successes are written in local history. While it is a tribute to the men, it is also a tribute to the state—a vindication of the foresight of the early day optimist, and a refutation of the once widespread belief that Minnesota was a God forsaken stretch of waste land unfit for habitation other than Indians, wolves, owls and rattlesnakes. The man who had faith and who backed his faith by sticking to his cabin is now reaping a reward of luxury in a land of fulfillment; and today may be seen in Fillmore county as fine farms, with splendid houses and commodious barns, as can be found anywhere in a month of travel. The man who lacked faith and who abandoned his log

cabin and his claim more than a half century ago is (if living) in many instances now out looking for another claim on which to erect another log cabin in another untried country—a victim of lost opportunity.

Sometimes an early settler in the first part of the fifties made claim to enormous tracts of timber land that was well supplied with springs and spring brooks, and like the native Winnebago Indian felt that he was monarch of all he surveyed. One of those greedy specimens of humanity, who perhaps had never heard of the golden rule, lived on section 10, town 101, range 9, and laid claim to the greater part of sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, in town 101, range 9. When a new settler (who was sometimes called a "tenderfoot") appeared on his domain the speculator would say to him, "I can fit you out with a location and will sell you a part of my claim." The price was fixed according to the location and which ranged from $200 to $600 a quarter section. The new claim seeker, not conversant with the United States land laws at that time, would pay the price asked for a claim, obtaining no more nor less than simply the speculator's consent for the "tenderfoot" to settle on the land, as the title was vested in the government of the United States. In making this deal perhaps nearly all of his ready cash was gone. He built a log cabin as a home for himself and family, and then had to "fish or cut bait" in order to support his family. This was not the only "land shark" in Fillmore county, as a score could be named. As soon as they disposed of their entire holding they had settled on, another location was mapped out, and again they were watching for a victim. And today if any of those early day "claim hucksters" own a farm in the county it is considered a poor one, worth $40 to $50 per acre, while other farms are selling at $70 to $125 per acre.

With many of the present generation there seems to be a query as to why the first settlers in the fifties located on such rough land while there were good claims to be had on the fertile prairie. This is very easily answered. They certainly had good reasons for so doing, and they were—wood and water. In the first settlement of the country many springs were to be found in the hilly and timbered sections of the country from which flowed the best of clear water from the fountain head. In the fifties there were some settlers that located on the prairie and hauled their needed supply of water from the nearest spring or spring brook. It is said that some of the early settlers on Highland prairie hauled water a distance of more than five miles. At this period well drilling machines were unknown in Fillmore county. The first well drilling contrivance that was operated in this part of the county was in 1858 and 1859 on the farm of Gorwood



W. H. STRONG.

Bursell, Sr., on section 36, town 101, range 9. It consisted of a kind of spring pole arrangement and was operated by the foot. The hole drilled was about four inches in diameter, and about twelve inches a day constituted a day's work drilling. The procuring of water was a success, but the quantity was not sufficient to satisfy a 1,400-pound ox a single day, as the output was only about four pails full of water in twenty-four hours. The quality was excellent and I can say from an experience that it was astonishing how it would quench thirst.

Some of the farm vehicles and tools used by the early settlers of our country in the fifties were lumber wagons, bob sleighs of home manufacture, sleds with long runners of home manufacture, "A"-shaped harrows, wood beam crossing and breaking plows, cradles to cut the grain, scythes to cut the grass, hand rakes to rake the hay and the grain from the swath, single and double shovel corn plows, spades, shovels, axes, hoes, iron wedges, bettles or mauls used to split the rails for fencing, frows to rive out the shakes or clapboards to cover the log cabin, and a limited number of carpenter tools. Five or more settlers would own a fanning mill to clean their grain, and in the first few years of settlement an eight-horse sweep power separator threshed all the grain grown in two or more townships.

At this period it was about 150 miles to the nearest railroad, which was the Illinois Central; forty to seventy-five miles to markets, which were at Mississippi points; ten to thirty miles must be traveled to obtain a supply of groceries and flour; and one to twenty-five miles to mail or receive a letter. The children had to travel one to five miles to school, and church-going people had to travel one to ten miles to church.

The church services were held in a schoolhouse, if one was conveniently located; if not, the services were held in a settler's log cabin. On the Sabbath day, when church services were to be held, ox and horse teams that were hitched to lumber wagons with board seats placed on the top of the wagon box seating from two to eight persons in each wagon, were seen coming from every direction to the house appointed for worship.

When a young man wanted to take his sweetheart out for a pleasure ride or to some public gathering he used an ox or horse team hitched to a lumber wagon with the board seat on top of the wagon box. The amusements were social parties, singing and spelling schools. The instrumental music was by drums and fife, accordions, violins and the jewsharp.

Today may be found in our county, additional to what the early settlers had, buggies, surreys, phaetons, carts, cutters, riding sulky and gang plows, two and three-section harrows (some of them have carts hitched behind them, so that the driver

can ride), self binders for all kinds of grain, sulky corn planters, mowers, hay tedders, hay loaders, sulky hay rakes, hay forks to unload the hay, grain drills and seeders, manure spreaders, corn shellers, feed grinders, steam threshing machines that thresh and measure the grain, power wood saws, sulky weeders, riding sulky corn plows, cream separators, washing machines, sheep shearing machines, and for conveyance, bicycles and automobiles. And the conveniences of today are nearby markets on railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, electric lights, rural free mail, free schools, free text books, and commodious churches. The farm laborer of today can ride to do all kinds of farm work, except to his meals and to his bed. For pleasure and amusement we find cornet bands, pianos, organs, violins, guitars, dulcimers, harps and phonographs. The writer has lived in this county long enough to see all the improved machinery installed. He has dropped corn by hand and covered it with a hoe by hand, plowed it with a one-horse shovel plow, making hand hoeing necessary, cut it up and shocked it by hand, husked it by hand, cut grain with the cradle, cut grass with the scythe, raked the hay and the grain in the swath by hand. Threshing was done by machinery. An eight-horse sweep power separator which threshed 200 bushels of wheat in a day was called a great invention, and all the straw was pitched onto the straw stack by hand, and the grain was measured in a half bushel. I have been a farm laboror and worked faithfully for 50 cents per day. I have raked grain from the swath and bound in bundles what a cradle cut in a day and was paid $1 per day. When acting as a pedagogue I received $18 per month of twenty-two days and boarded around with the scholars in the district.

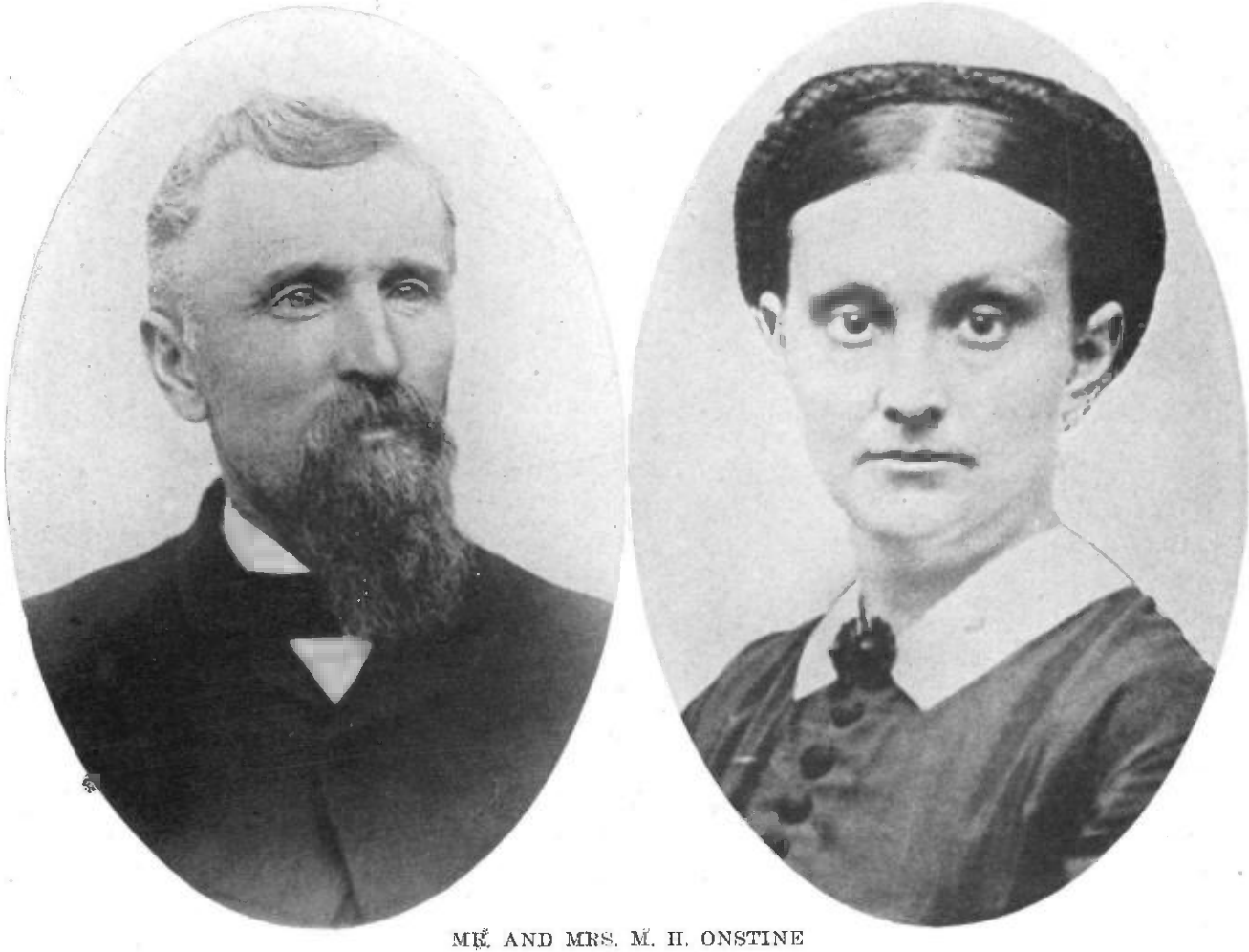
The heroic days of the "prairie schooner" that moved ceaselessly on in battallions across the prairies of the Great West more than fifty years ago, bearing hardy adventurers, singly, or in little companies, to people Minnesota, are past. Then it was a vehicle by day, a home at night and a fort on occasion. Then the most American of our greater poets sang for those who journeyed in it toward the setting sun:

"We cross the prairies as of old
The Pilgrims crossed the sea;
To make the West, as they the East,
The homestead of the free!"

The "Moonshiners." In the year 1856 a promising young man of the western part of the "Keystone" state and who had just recently married the lady of his choice, decided to emigrate to the then "far west" and seek their fortune. After a time of

reconnoitering in the east part of this county, looking for their anticipated prize, which they no doubt thought was lying around loose somewhere on the prairie, they established themselves among the hills on the south branch of Root river on section 9 in Preble township (where Choice postoffice was afterward located), there to begin the foundation for their anticipated collossal fortune. The young man was a genius and of an inventive turn of mind, who at once set his wits at work with the expectations of a great and prosperous future. In a short period of time he found that the country in that locality was infested with a species of serpents called rattlesnakes. Being on the alert to discover some way to accumulate wealth without any extra manual exertions, he soon believed that he had struck the "keynote" for his success, which was to erect a plant to manufacture and dispense a liquid that could be used as an antidote for the bite of the most venemous reptiles known to mankind. The plant was a success, and the proprietor believed he had a "bonanza" and was soon dispensing the antidote to the people that were bitten by the dreaded serpents, but more freely to those that were bitten only in their imagination. All went well for a time. The business was rapidly increasing and the news spread far and wide of the remedy for the bite of a rattlesnake that was manufactured in town 102, range 8. When the news reached Preston, a United States officer and two other persons who constituted his "posse" started out to learn something in regard to this new and rare enterprise. On their arrival at the new manufacturing plant, which was situated under a ledge of rocks, they proceeded to make an investigation and found to their entire satisfaction that the antidote manufactured was the same kind of liquid that was sold in Elliota and Greenfield as "moonshine," and had the same effect, but had to be used in the summer time, as it would congeal at zero temperature. The officers stated to the proprietor that he was violating the law of the land by manufacturing this so-called antidote. The proprietor for a time was as "mum as a Potomac oyster," after which his blood boiled, and conceiving them as obnoxious characters, he remonstrated in very strong language, and told them that their contemplated action would, if carried out, prostrate his trade, ruin his business and blight his future prospects. Contrary to the wish of the proprietor, the officer seized the plant and took possession of the manufactured article, as the proprietor was violating the law. The raiders were now in a dilemma as to what disposition they should make of the manufactured article they had in their possession. One tall and lank fellow (who hailed from the "Buckeye" state, and was known by every old settler of Fillmore county), who was a member of the official company and who had given the subject considerable

thought, said: "The law does not order us to waste it," and proposed that each member of their official company lubricate well the inside of their anatomy before starting home, as there were many rattlesnakes on their way returning to Preston, and by thus using this antidote he thought they would be immune from the effects of a bite. After these officers of the law thought they were sufficiently "pickled" they put the proprietor under arrest and took all the manufactured antidote and as much of the plant equipments as they could and "hiked out" for Preston, and after traveling about seventeen long and weary miles over rough and hilly roads arrived there safe and sound, except that they seemed to have wheels in their heads, and they were unable to explain why they forded Root river and Camp creek on going, and on returning over the same road did not ford the same streams. The proprietor had a hearing for the offense he had committed, no doubt made a very plausible plea, made good promises and was given his freedom by the officers, who bade him a fond adieu, and he returned to his home in town 102, range 8, perhaps a wiser man and one who had an experience. The officer and his "posse" stored what antidote that was left from their confiscation in a cellar under a house on lot 3, block 8, in Barbara Kaercher's addition to Preston, and said that as the quantity of the needful which they had obtained in town 102, range 8, was limited, they therefore could not divide with their Preston friends, but expected some time in the near future to visit another similar plant which was situated in town 102, range 12, on the middle branch of Root river, and if they failed there to secure enough of the antidote for their friends, they would visit a location where the rattlesnakes were larger, which was in town 101, range 11, on the Upper Iowa river, where it was reported that a $20,000 plant had been erected to manufacture the antidote more extensively, where they would be able to obtain a greater quantity, and if so, would then remember their friends. This statement made by the officers, who acted as though they were the "whole cheese," did not satisfy the Preston citizens and they quietly surveyed the walls of the cellar that was frequented by the officers of the law, and soon found an entrance that they could use as an ingress and egress that would be unperceived by the officers. After this discovery the cellar was frequented by many Prestonians, who pronounced it a fine medicine which they believed was good for their stomachs and their ailments. On one occasion when the officer and his "posse" felt as they needed "something" for their recuperation from their imaginary ailments they quietly entered the storage room, but to their utter astonishment found that the vessels that contained the indispensable antidote were empty.



MR. AND MRS. M. H. ONSTINE

CHAPTER XI.

SOCIETIES OF OLD SETTLERS.

Old Folks' Association—Old Settlers' Association of the Southern Tier of Counties in Minnesota—Fillmore County Old Settlers' Association—The Old Settlers', Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Fillmore County—Names of Those Who Have Been Prominent in These Associations—Edited by F. E. Titus.

As the years passed by, and that valiant band of pioneers, who opened the way for civilization in Fillmore county, began to realize that they were no longer young, there began to be an inclination to meet together and to talk over the days of yore. Consequently the various associations of old settlers that have been formed in this county have been a natural growth. Interest in historical matters has always been keen in Fillmore county, and the annual meetings of the old settlers are now matters of deep interest to the pioneers and of much instruction to the younger generation.

Old Folks' Association. The records of this organization do not appear to have been preserved. The constitution of the Old Settlers' Association, adopted in 1893, contains the following clause: "That all who were members of the Old Folks' Association in said county, in 1875, shall be deemed members of this association."

Among those who as members of the 1875 association joined the 1903 association may be mentioned: William Allen, Niles Carpenter, Thomas Duxbury, W. W. Fife, J. P. Howe, H. S. H. Hayes, W. D. Lipe, R. L. Nichols, Berg Olson, L. L. Streeter, R. M. Twitchell, E. O. Wilson, E. Bolles, N. P. Colburn, E. P. Eddy, John Fisk, L. A. Hunt, A. D. Knight, B. S. Loomis, M. H. Onstine, G. G. Stevens, W. Staplin and W. M. Taylor.

A former history of the county gives the following account of this Old Folks' Association, or Old Settlers' Club, as it was sometimes called: "At a meeting of some of the early settlers of the county, held at the office of B. F. Tillotson, in Rushford, on December 13, 1874, to take into consideration the formation of an old settlers' club, a call was issued to meet February 22, 1875, to those who had been here eighteen years or more. This call was signed by B. F. Tillotson, S. S. Stebbins, G. J. Onstine, J. R.

Jones, H. A. Billings, N. P. Colburn, Hiram Walker, R. Whittemore, M. McLarty, F. G. Barnard, J. F. O'Farrell, J. H. McKenuy, S. Benson, W. W. Fife, S. M. Hunt, Willard Allen, D. Higby, T. J. Thayer, C. D. Sherwood, Niles Carpenter, George G. Stevens, Henry Stage, Joseph Otis, Wm. W. Snell, John Murphy, C. M. Lovell, S. B. Murrell, Berge Olsen, T. M. Chapman, W. L. Kellogg, John Kleeker."

February 22, 1875, a meeting was held and the plans for the organization were perfected. The president was B. F. Tillotson, of Riceford; vice-presidents, Millard Allen, of Spring Valley, and J. P. Howe, of Granger; recording secretary, William Barton, of Amherst; corresponding secretary, H. R. Wells, of Preston; treasurer, W. W. Fife, of Preston. A soliciting committee was appointed consisting of Niles Carpenter, W. W. Braden and William Barton.

Old Settlers' Association of the Southern Tier of Counties in Minnesota. This association was organized at Lanesboro, October 21, 1878. The committee of organization which was appointed at once upon the assembling of the old settlers consisted of J. D. Farmer, Thomas H. Armstrong, W. T. Wilkins, W. F. Dunbar and H. R. Wells. A committee on program consisted of Dr. Luke Miller, Edward Thompson and O. G. Wall. The constitution provided that any person living in the southern tier of Minnesota counties, who had arrived in Minnesota before the end of 1858, and had on the date of making their application, reached the age of twenty-one years, might become members upon the payment of certain dues.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Edward Thompson; vice-presidents, D. L. Buell, Houston county; H. A. Billings, Fillmore county; J. F. Cook, Mower county; Charles Kittleson, Freeborn county; J. B. Wakefield, Faribault county; A. L. Ward, Martin county; George C. Chamberlain, Jackson county; Stephen Miller, Nobles county; Lyman Haws, Rock county; secretary, O. G. Wall, Lanesboro; assistant secretary, C. H. Davidson, Austin; treasurer, B. F. Farmer, Spring Valley. The following committees were appointed: On poem and address, H. W. Holley, J. Q. Farmer, Dr. Thomas Everts; on obituary, M. S. Wilkinson, H. R. Wells, W. F. Dunbar; on finance, B. F. Farmer, Thomas Armstrong, W. W. Braden.

At the banquet which was held in the evening, W. W. Braden acted as toastmaster, and speeches were made by Gov. Alexander Ramsey, M. S. Wilkins, H. R. Wells, Thomas H. Armstrong, J. C. Easton, Clark W. Thompson, A. L. Ward, J. D. Farmer, Edward Thompson and N. P. Colburn.

Following is a list of those who joined the association: Clark W. Thompson, Wells; Edward Thompson, Hokah; B. F. Farmer,

Spring Valley; T. M. Chapman, Spring Valley; N. P. Colburn, Preston; James D. Farmer, Spring Valley; A. D. Gray, Preston; W. H. Roberts, Lanesboro; Samuel Hackett, Fairmont; W. W. Braden, Preston; S. A. Hunt, Spring Valley; J. V. Graling, Spring Valley; O. G. Wall, Lanesboro; W. F. Dunbar, Caledonia; Henry R. Wells, Preston; Thomas H. Armstrong, Albert Lea; William T. Wilkins, Austin; M. S. Wilkinson, Wells; Charles Kittleson, Albert Lea; Alexander Ramsey, St. Paul; William H. Budd, Fairmont; J. M. Wheat, Lenora; George B. Winship, Caledonia; H. A. Billings, Preston; N. B. Smith, Spring Valley; J. C. Easton, Chatfield; W. G. McSpadden, Houston; George McMaster. Before the final adjournment Alexander Ramsey, H. H. Sibley and Henry M. and Edmund Rice were made honorary members.

The association met at Spring Valley in October, 1880. Following is the program: At Allard's Opera House—Oration by the president, M. S. Wilkinson, and other speeches. Banquet at the Commercial Hotel. Speeches—Address of welcome, Hon. J. D. Farmer; response, Hon. M. S. Wilkinson. "Our Country," Hon. E. Rice; "Minnesota," Dr. Leonard; "Southern Minnesota," Col. C. W. Thompson; "The Old Settlers," Col. J. R. Jones; "Prospects of Southern Minnesota," J. C. Easton; "Early Trip to Southern Minnesota," Judge D. Smith; "The Press," Senator Powers; "The Ladies," N. P. Colburn; "The Host and Hostess," A. L. Ward. Music.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: M. S. Wilkinson, president; B. F. Farmer, secretary; O. F. Rexford, treasurer.

The board then proceeded to appoint the following committees: Finance committee, B. F. Farmer, chairman; Milo White and Vic Le Fevre. Committee on poetry and oration, J. D. Farmer, chairman; H. R. Wells and W. F. Dunbar. Committee on obituaries, H. W. Holley, chairman; C. W. Thompson and T. H. Armstrong. Committee on fuller organization, Major Foster, chairman; Capt. W. W. Braden, Ed Thompson, W. T. Wilkins and Frank Hall. The following are the names of the oldest settlers present: M. S. Wilkinson, B. F. Farmer, J. N. Graling, Senator Powers, John Bateman, D. C. Hendershott, Major Foster, John Kleckler, J. C. Halbkat, W. T. Wilkins, R. M. Foster, Vic Le Fevre, Milo White, G. J. Batty, N. B. Smith, William McNee, D. Smith, T. M. Chapman, J. B. Viall and J. D. Farmer.

Fillmore County Old Settlers' Association. This organization had its inception in the mind of William Willford. In a long letter to O. G. Wall, of Lanesboro, he set forth the desirability of such an association, and urged Mr. Wall to institute one. Mr. Wall published the letter in the Lanesboro "Journal," and urged Mr. Willford to promote such an enterprise. As a result a num-

ber of letters were written to old settlers, and among those who became interested were: H. R. Wells, J. R. Jones, P. McCracken, N. P. Colburn, A. Daniels, B. F. Langworthy, W. M. Sackett, N. A. Graves, C. C. Onstine, Uriah Williams, William Kimber and John Kingsbury. Accordingly the "Old settlers of the townships of Chatfield, Holt, Carrolton, Preston, Amherst, Canton, Harmony, York, Spring Valley and Sumner issued a call, and in pursuance to this call a meeting was held at the courthouse in Preston, January 31, 1893, while a howling blizzard was raging. Mayor C. H. Conkey called the meeting to order, and William Willford was made chairman and F. E. Titus secretary. H. R. Wells and P. McCracken were appointed a committee to draw up a constitution, and a list of officers was selected. Those who joined the association at this meeting were: William Willford, F. E. Titus, C. H. Conkey, S. B. Murrel, R. G. Millet, Jerome Utley, E. Burnham, Hulda Burnham, P. McCracken, John Mulverhill, John McLeod, James Taylor, C. C. Onstine, Henry R. Wells, John Kingsbury and M. O'Conner. One of the events of the day was the reading of a paper by P. McCracken, entitled, "Some Things I Saw in Pioneer Days."

The following officers were selected: President, William Willford; vice-president, Peter McCracken, York; secretary, F. E. Titus, Lenora; treasurer, C. H. Conkey, Preston; historian, William Willford, Canton; executive committee, E. Burnham (chairman), Bristol; R. G. Millett, Sumner; R. M. Foster, Forestville; S. B. Murrel, Preston; Jerome Utley, Carimona; vice-presidents, John McLeod, Rushford; L. Thompson, Arendahl; Duncan McConochie, Pilot Mound; Col. J. R. Jones, Chatfield; P. A. McLaughrey, Jordan; Uriah Williams, Sumner; B. F. Langworthy, Spring Valley; F. H. Bartlett, Fillmore; D. D. Farrell, Fountain; William W. Sackett, Carrolton; N. A. Graves, Holt; Halver Erickson, Norway; Arne Arneson, Preble; M. H. Onstine, Amherst; W. W. Fife, Preston; William Holton, Carimona; Martin Quinn, Forestville; John Bateman, Bloomfield; Ole J. Hattlestad, Beaver; Ole Arneson, York; M. O'Connor, Bristol; Alonzo Daniels, Harmony; John Kingsbury, Canton; and Chris Helgeson, Newburg.

May 29, 1893, the executive committee met, and prepared a revision of the membership requirements to include all who had resided in the county thirty-one years and who had reached the age of forty years.

The first annual meeting was held in Preston, June 20, 1893. H. R. Wells made the address of welcome on behalf of the citizens of Preston and N. A. Graves responded. The address of the day was delivered by A. D. Gray. The officers named in the constitution served until the second annual meeting.

The second annual meeting was held June 19, 1894, at Tib-

bitt's Opera House, Preston. N. P. Colburn was the orator of the day, followed by William Willford, H. R. Wells, P. McCracken and others. The following officers were elected: President, William Willford; vice-president general, H. R. Wells; secretary, M. H. Onstine; treasurer, C. H. Conkey; historian; William Willford; executive committee, N. A. Graves, Highland; Peter McCracken, York; Jerome Utley, Preston; F. E. Titus, Lenora; and John McLeod, Rushford.

The third annual meeting was held at the courthouse hall in Preston, June 18, 1895. H. C. Butler delivered the address, and historical facts were presented by William Willford. The following officers were elected: President, William Willford, Lenora; vice-president general, N. P. Colburn, Rushford; secretary, M. H. Onstine, Henrytown; treasurer, C. H. Conkey, Preston; historian, William Willford, Lenora; executive committee, F. E. Titus, Lenora; Jerome Utley, Preston; John Iverson, Rushford; R. G. Millet, Racine; L. H. Prosser, Wykoff.

The fourth annual meeting was held in the courthouse yard at Preston, June 16, 1896. Addresses were delivered by N. P. Colburn, H. R. Wells and N. A. Graves. The following officers were elected: President, N. P. Colburn, Rushford; vice-president general, N. A. Graves, Highland; secretary, M. H. Onstine; treasurer, C. H. Conkey; historian, Peter McCracken, York; executive committee, F. E. Titus, Lenora; J. Utley, Preston; John McLeod, Rushford; L. H. Prosser, Wykoff; B. F. Farmer, Spring Valley.

The fifth annual meeting was held in Sylvan Park, Lanesboro, June 15, 1897. Burdett Thayer was the speaker of the occasion, followed by H. R. Wells. The officers were re-elected. Vice-presidents were appointed as follows: John McLeod, Rushford; L. Thompson, Arendahl; D. McConochie, Pilot Mound; G. H. Haven, Chatfield; P. A. McLoughrey, Jordan; Uriah Williams, Sumner; B. F. Farmer, Spring Valley; L. M. Prosser, Fillmore; D. D. Farrell, Fountain; N. Connelly, Carrolton; M. S. Anderson, Holt; Charles Willford, Canton; L. L. Humble, Norway; Arne Anderson, Preble; H. Grinwolsen, Amherst; H. R. Wells, Preston; William Holton, Carimona; T. J. Meighen, Forestville; H. C. Gullickson, Bloomfield; Ole J. Hattlestad, Beaver; Ale Arneson, York; M. O'Connor, Bristol; Alonzo Daniels, Harmony; G. Gabrielson, Newburg.

The sixth annual meeting was held in Spring Valley, June 21, 1898. H. R. Wells was the orator. M. G. Fellows read an original poem, and P. McCracken related some experiences of pioneer life. The following officers were elected: President, N. P. Colburn, Rushford; secretary, M. H. Onstine, Henrytown; treasurer, C. H. Conkey, Preston; historian, M. G. Fellows, Lanesboro; vice-president, L. H. Prosser, Wykoff; executive committee, J. Utley, Pres-

ton; W. L. Kellogg, Spring Valley; John McLeod, Rushford; Peter McCracken, Cherry Grove; F. E. Titus, Lenora.

The seventh annual meeting was held at Lanesboro, June 20, 1899. The constitution and by-laws were revised. Addresses were delivered by R. E. Thompson, J. H. Burns, H. R. Wells and K. W. Buell. The following officers were elected: President, N. P. Colburn; first vice-president, H. R. Wells; second vice-president, F. E. Titus; secretary, M. H. Onstine; treasurer, C. H. Conkey; historian, M. G. Fellows; executive committee, M. L. Kellogg, Spring Valley; J. Utley, Carimona; M. Scanlan, Lanesboro; Hans Gunvalsen, Amherst; W. N. Gilmore, Mabel.

The eighth annual meeting was held at Spring Valley, June 27, 1900. The Winona Old Settlers were to be entertained there, but were unable to be present on account of a washout on the W. & S. W. road the night before. After the address of welcome by Burdett Thayer and the response by N. P. Colburn, the following persons delivered addresses: F. E. Titus, S. C. Lobdill, P. McCracken and N. P. Colburn. The officers elected were: President, N. P. Colburn, Rushford; first vice-president, H. R. Wells, Preston; second vice-president, J. J. Vail; secretary, M. H. Onstine; treasurer, C. H. Conkey, Preston; historian, F. E. Titus, Lenora; executive committee, W. L. Kellogg, Spring Valley; Hans Gunvalson, Amherst; H. C. Gullickson, Beaver; M. Scanlan, Lanesboro.

The ninth annual meeting was held in Preston, June 18, 1901. Addresses were delivered by Rev. A. J. Stead, of Canton; P. McCracken, F. E. Titus and H. R. Wells. The following officers were elected: President, M. H. Onstine; first vice-president, Peter McCracken; second vice-president, H. R. Wells; secretary and historian, F. E. Titus; treasurer, C. H. Conkey; executive committee, W. N. Gilmore, Newburg; Jerome Utley, Carimona; M. O'Connor, Bristol; T. G. Moore, Harmony; W. W. Beers, Rushford.

The tenth annual meeting was held at Preston, June 19, 1902. The address was delivered by Hon. W. H. Eustice, and E. V. Farrington explained the object of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Association. Officers were elected as follows: President, M. H. Onstine; first vice-president, C. H. Conkey; second vice-president, E. V. Farrington; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley.

The eleventh annual meeting was held at Lanesboro, June 17, 1903. The Soldiers' and Settlers' Association met at the same time. Addresses were delivered by N. P. Colburn and H. R. Wells. Officers were elected as follows: President, M. H. Onstine; first vice-president, C. H. Conkey; second vice-president, John McLeod; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, M. J. Fellows.

The twelfth annual meeting was held at Rushford, June 14, 1904. The addresses were delivered by Burdett Thayer, S. J. Iverson, A. D. Gray, H. C. Bassett and others. Officers were elected as follows: President, C. H. Conkey; first vice-president, John McLeod; second vice-president, Hans Gunvalson; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, M. J. Fellows.

The thirteenth annual meeting was held at Preston, June 29, 1905. The addresses were delivered by N. P. Colburn, H. R. Wells, A. D. Gray, Warren Colburn, H. S. Bassett, G. W. Rockwell, Niles Carpenter and others. The following officers were elected: President, C. H. Conkey; first vice-president, John McLeod; second vice-president, John S. Weed; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, M. J. Fellows.

The fourteenth annual meeting was held at Harmony, June 27, 1906. Addresses were delivered by Rev. D. L. Kiehle, H. R. Wells, William Willford and others. Officers were elected as follows: President, C. H. Conkey; first vice-president, John McLeod; second vice-president, John McNeely; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, William Willford.

The fifteenth annual meeting was held at Mabel, June 27, 1907. Addresses were delivered by Hon. W. H. Harris, William Willford, F. E. Titus, Mrs. Loomis and others. The officers were elected as follows: President, H. R. Wells; first vice-president, John McLeod; second vice-president, John McNeely; secretary, F. E. Titus; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, William Willford.

The sixteenth annual meeting was held at Spring Valley, June 2, 1908. Various addresses were delivered, and the former officers were re-elected. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Association held a meeting at the same time, united their organization with the Old Settlers' Association, and delivered their books to the latter organization.

The Old Settlers', Soldiers' and Sailors' Association of Fillmore County. A special meeting of the old settlers was held at the courthouse, May 10, 1910, a merger having been perfected between the Old Settlers' Association and the Old Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, and appointed officers. Henry Nupson was chosen president and M. H. Onstine secretary. Those present at this meeting were: M. H. Onstine, John McLeod, Jerome Utley, H. S. Bassett, D. K. Michener and Henry Nupson. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Rushford.

June 29, 1910, the meeting of the association was held at Rushford. Addresses were delivered by various members.. The officers were elected as follows: President, John McLeod; first vice-president, Marvin Eggleston; second vice-president, James Donald; secretary, M. H. Onstine; treasurer, Jerome Utley; historian, M. H. Onstine; assistants, Mrs. Mary I. West, L. H. Pros-

ser, H. S. Bassett, D. W. Bacon; executive committee, Peter Milen, J. J. Henesy, J. T. Brokken, W. W. Beers, S. A. Nelson.

May 3, 1911, the executive committee met, and appointed H. C. Bassett, S. A. Nelson and M. H. Onstine a committee to solicit funds for the erection of a monument to the old sailors and soldiers of Fillmore county.

June 8, 1911, the regular meeting of the association was held at Preston. An address was delivered by W. H. Harris. The following officers were elected: President, John McLeod; first vice-president, Thomas J. Meighen; second vice-president, L. H. Prosser; treasurer, Jerome Utley; secretary and historian, M. H. Onstine; assistants, H. S. Bassett, D. W. Bacon, L. H. Prosser and Mrs. Mary I. West; executive committee, D. D. Ayers, Peter Milne, William Montague, W. S. Henry, Peter McKay.

June 20, 1912, the regular meeting of the association was held at Preston. The address was delivered by Hon. L. C. Spooner, and the following officers were elected: President, John McLeod; vice-presidents, T. J. Meighen and L. H. Prosser; treasurer, Jerome Utley; secretary, M. H. Onstine; historian, Thomas Duxbury; executive committee, Henry Nupson and Alexander McKay. An interesting paper was read by Thomas Duxbury ("Old Pedagogue").

Members. The following is a list of the charter members of the Old Settlers' Association, the name and the place and date of settlement being given: William Willford, Canton, 1854; F. E. Titus, Lenora, 1857; C. H. Conkey, Preston, 1859; S. B. Murrel, 1854; R. G. Millet, Hamilton, 1856; Jerome Utley, Carimona, 1856; Hulda Burnham, Bristol, 1856; E. Burnham, Bristol, 1856; P. McCracken, York, 1855; John Mulverhill, Carrolton, 1856; John McLeod, Rushford, 1854; James Taylor, Preston, 1857; C. C. Onstine, 1853; Henry R. Wells, 1857; John Kingsbury, 1852; M. O. Conner, Bristol, 1856; R. M. Foster, 1853; Ole Arneson, York, 1856; N. A. Graves, Holt, 1856; Mrs. M. A. Graves, Holt, 1856.

The following is a list of others who have been connected with the Old Settlers' Association and the Old Settlers', Soldiers' and Sailors' Association, the place and date of their settlement being given when such appears on the association records: Chr. Hellickson, Newburg, 1854; George W. Hard, Preston, 1865; Jeremiah Shook, Preston, 1856; F. W. Bartlett, Fillmore, 1856; Christian Peterson, Amhert, 1854; Tallak Brokken, Harmony, 1854; Halvor Erikson, Norway, 1854; S. J. Overland, Norway, 1854; John Bateman, Bloomfield, 1853; A. J. Nagel, York, 1856; S. H. Bateman, Bloomfield, 1854; A. Daniels, Harmony, 1858; John Olson, Preston, 1855; John Cathcart, Elliota, 1853; James Healy, Fountain, 1856; L. H. Prosser, Fillmore, 1856; K. O. Wilson, York, 1856; Peder Sandersen, Amherst, 1854; Albert Weiser (Winneshiek

county, Iowa, 1856), Preston, 1866; P. A. Loughrey, Jordan, 1855; Henry Nupson, Harmony, 1857; James McConville, Jordan, 1856; E. V. Farrington, Jordan, 1858; T. G. Moore, Harmony, 1860; S. R. Ayer, Carimona, 1854; Mrs. Frank Day, Carimona, 1856; Mrs. T. H. Morgan, Newburg, 1855; Mrs. J. M. Kingsbury, Newburg, 1853; F. H. Day, Carimona, 1857; Mrs. J. Cathcart, Preston, 1857; Mrs. C. R. Mack, Preston, 1857; Mrs. P. J. Hart, Harmony, 1856; Mrs. E. V. Farrington, Jordan, 1858; E. M. Rolfe, Harmony, 1860; George Andrus and wife, Louise; L. L. Humble and wife, Sophia, Norway, 1856; N. Hanson and wife, Margaret, Preble, 1861; Hans Gunvalsen, Amherst, 1855; Tollef A. Harstad, Harmony, 1866; M. Scanlan, Carrolton, 1856; Ole O. Blagsvedt, Amherst, 1854; Andrew Thompson, Holt, 1859; Thomas Oleson, Preble, 1861; T. Tousley, Amherst, 1862; Charles A. Graves, born at Highland, 1856; his wife, Ada M., Rushford, 1857; C. E. Huntley and wife, Sarah A., Spring Valley, 1853; H. C. Gullickson and wife, Bloomfield, 1856; D. K. Michener and wife, Ida, Etua, 1857; L. W. Allen, Spring Valley, 1856; D. W. Rathburn, Spring Valley; his wife, Jane C., Spring Valley, both 1855; J. M. Thresher, Kedron, July, 1856; Charles Graling, Forestville, 1855; D. C. Hancock, Spring Valley, 1856; S. C. and W. L. Kellogg, Spring Valley, 1856; George McNier and wife, Caroline, Spring Valley, 1853; B. F. Farmer, Spring Valley, 1857; William Degroot, Spring Valley, 1863; Mrs. Maggie Furgerson, Amherst, 1861; B. F. Langworthy and wife (Mower county, 1856), Spring Valley, 1881; W. W. Wall and Helen, Chatfield, May, 1855; John McCollum and wife, Barbary, Scotland, 1856; R. G. Smith and wife, Margaret, 1859; W. W. Beers and wife, Caroline, Rushford, 1855; J. S. Weed and Emeline, his wife, Highland, 1859; Ole Gilbronson, Carrolton, 1856; C. H. Robbins, Jordan, 1859; his wife, R. E. Robbins, Jordan, 1855; W. B. Hutchinson, Granger, 1854; his wife, A. Hutchinson, Granger, 1853; German Johnson, Harmony, 1856; his wife, Julia Johnson, Harmony, 1859; Osten Nelson, Harmony, 1854; his wife, Carrie Nelson, Harmony, 1855; Mrs. Susan Boice, Harmony, 1856; John Iverson, Rushford, 1856; his wife, Rushford, 1856; Kate Little, Preston, 1856; Mrs. O. E. Wheeler, Preston, 1856; C. P. Fowler, Preston, 1855; N. P. Colburn, 1855; his wife, Ruth Colburn, 1855; V. Lefevre and wife, Sarah, 1855; D. A. Sullivan and wife; W. W. Parkinson and wife, Augusta M., Pleasant Grove (Olmsted county); Martin Blagsvedt, Amherst; Carl Blagsvedt, Amherst; Christian Blagsvedt, Amherst; Gilbert Gullickson, Amherst; J. C. Mills, Preston; Willard Boice, Preston, 1856; his wife, Margaret E. Boice; H. J. Eddy, born Canton township, 1857; Emma, his wife; O. R. Strand and C. S. Strand, his wife, 1855; John Manuel and Phoebe Manuel, his wife, 1855; D. W. Bacon and Hattie, his wife, 1866; D. P.

Bacon and Anna, his wife, 1860; Sam Duxbury and Ann, his wife, 1854; L. S. St. John and A. M., his wife, 1853; David Hutton, Fountain, 1860, and Mary E., his wife; Peter McKay and wife, Margaret, Amherst, 1862; S. S. Dunn and wife, Preston, 1864; Andrew Gray, Newburg, 1854; his wife, Kate, Riceford, 1854; W. T. Stevens and wife, Lenora, 1859; W. N. Gilmore; John Milen; Carl Knudson; S. A. Nelson; O. E. Langum; Edwin A. Pickett, born in Carimona, 1860; Mrs. Joseph Pickett, Carimona, 1858; W. B. Hines; Mrs. Emily Finny, John McNeelye, Carimona, 1854; Duncan McConochie, Arendahl, 1856; George J. McMasters, born in Caton, 1862; John Sumer, Amherst, 1858; Garnet Workman, Carimona, 1858; Sarah Workman, his wife; Henry S. Bassett; Gullick Johnson, Rushford, 1854; Ole Knudson; Elling Knudson; H. E. Glassoe; R. C. Sacket; Owen Mohan; L. A. King; John Reihl; Alex Long; Ole Tollefson; Gotleib Busse; Mrs. H. C. Vial; W. J. Stuart; Mrs. Terwilligar; S. F. Miner; Mrs. Rosalie Day; Mrs. Mary L. Barnes; E. M. Stork; O. H. Case; Halvor Johnson; John Johnson; J. C. Russell and wife, Mary Russell; Mrs. Arnold Rose; Mrs. Alice Hunt; Mrs. Pat Conley; Robert Knox (born in county); R. Rush (Canton, 1856); George Milne and wife, Orilla; T. L. Hegland and wife; John N. Johnson and wife; Charles H. Brightman and wife, Sarah; W. D. Hurlbut; J. H. Roberts; Thomas Johnson; Gilbert Butler; Mrs. Etta Harkness; Mrs. Elmira Hyatt; Mahlan Newell; his wife, Julia Newell; J. O. Beach; his wife, Sarah Beach; Ella Adams; Mrs. Edna Eastman; J. C. Rice; his wife, Katherine; Mrs. C. S. Haines; Mrs. Sarah Miner; B. J. Tabor; Lottie C. Tabor; Mrs. L. C. Monroe; Mrs. L. Woodle; Mrs. Mary Boice; Nels H. Nelson; Mrs. John Stahl; Peter Milne; J. G. Miner; James Donald, 1852; Alice J. Sprague, 1858; W. H. Abro, 1857; Mrs. W. H. Abro, 1858; Willis Hall Farmer, 1858; James A. Sample, 1854; J. S. Lee, 1868; Mrs. J. S. Lee, 1868; L. N. Nash and wife, 1854; Jacob Gasper, 1856, and wife; John C. Halbkat, 1855; Anton Larson, 1870; Mrs. Anton Larson, 1866; C. W. Ackley and wife; S. M. Wilder, 1855; B. G. Westgate, born in county, 1866; P. Mangan, 1866; W. W. Bontique, 1870; Martin Tuims, 1863; Morris T. Armstrong, 1858; Mrs. S. A. Derby, 1856; Martin Carlson; John Miller; W. J. Emmons; Erick Nupson and wife, Oline; W. B. Patterson and wife, Maria S.; E. R. Willford and wife, Mary; George Johnson and wife, Elizabeth L.; John Milne and wife; Ole Hanson and wife; Mrs. Caroline Truman; J. T. Elliot; Mrs. Jessie A. Gestness; Mrs. C. C. Horton; Mrs. Anderson; Mrs. A. O. Afseth; Mrs. Thomas Wilson; Mrs. John Gilbrandson; T. J. Meighen; Mrs. Sarah A. Mills; Alex McKay and wife; L. T. Tollefson; A. Nelson; Owen Mohan; T. A. Harstad; George Andrus; Nels H. Nelson; A. N. Huff; J. C. Miller; Charles Schultz.

Those who have joined since the consolidation of the two societies are: D. D. Ayers, 1854; H. W. Barnes, 1853; Jacob Anstett, 1856; J. T. Brokken and wife, 1856; T. T. Felland and wife, 1854; Gunder Berge and wife, 1874; William Loftus and wife, 1861; George Milne and wife, 1862-1863; Mary A. Duxbury, 1855; F. C. Wood and Margaret, his wife, 1867; E. S. Holton and wife, Augusta, 1861; W. M. Roberts and wife, Julia, 1862; Austin Jacobson, 1854.

CHAPTER XII.

COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

General Summary of Fillmore County Railroads—First Railroad Project—Mississippi & Missouri—Root River Valley — Land Grant Roads—Five Million Dollar Loan—Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota—Southern Minnesota — Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul—Reno-Preston Branch—Preston-Isinours Branch—Chicago, Great Western—Chicago & Northwestern.

Fillmore county is served by five railroad routes, operated by three companies, and cutting into thirteen of the twenty-four townships. The Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul crosses the county from east to west, passing through Rushford, Arendahl, Holt, Carrolton, Fountain, Fillmore and Spring Valley townships, with stations at Rushford, Peterson, Whalan, Lanesboro, Isinours Junction, Fountain, Wykoff and Spring Valley. The Preston-Reno division owned by this company extends from Preston in a southeasterly direction toward Prosper, and then in an easterly direction until it leaves the county. It touches Preston, Harmony, Canton and Newburg townships and has stations at Preston, Harmony, Canton, Prosper and Mabel, and a flagging point at Hutton. The Preston-Isinours division, owned by this company, is located in Carrolton and Preston townships, with stations at Preston and Isinours Junction and one or two flagging points at crossroads.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul-Osage division of the Chicago, Great Western crosses the eastern portions of Spring Valley and Bloomfield, with stations at Spring Valley and Ostrander.

The Chatfield-Eyota branch of the Chicago & Northwestern extends north from Chatfield.

These roads have been built at different times and under varying circumstances.

First Railroad Project.—The first legislation concerning railways which applies to Fillmore county was introduced in the Minnesota territorial legislature of 1854 by Joseph Renshaw Brown. A bill to incorporate the Minnesota & Northwestern Railroad Company, introduced by this pioneer, was passed on the last day of the session and contrary to expectation Gov. Willis A. Gorman signed it. The route designated was from some point on Lake

"SUNNYSIDE"

Superior by way of St. Paul to the Iowa state line in the direction of Dubuque. This route, it will be seen, might be construed as crossing Fillmore county. June 29, 1854, congress passed an act to aid the territory of Minnesota in the constructing of the railroad over practically the route which had been designated for the Minnesota & Northwestern, and granted for the purpose of aiding such a railroad, every alternate section of land, six sections in width, designated by odd numbers, on both sides of the road. These lands were to be at the disposal of any future Minnesota legislature. The congressional act provided, however, that the road should leave the Iowa state line somewhere between ranges 9 and 17, thus making the possibility that it cross Fillmore county still more definite. However, it was not until many years after that the county had a north and south road.

Mississippi and Missouri. Soon after Brownsville, in Houston county, was settled, a charter was obtained with the mouth-filling title of "Mississippi and Missouri Railroad Company." That road was to start up the Wild Cat valley, but was never built.

The Root River Valley Railroad Company was organized under territorial auspices in 1854. Clark W. Thompson, of Hokah; T. B. Twiford, of Chatfield; and T. B. Stoddard, of La Crosse, and their associates were those interested.

The Land Grant Roads. By an act approved by the Minnesota territorial legislature May 22, 1857, four railroad corporations were granted alternate sections, designated by odd numbers, six miles in width on each side of the roads and their branches, this being in accord with the liberal railroad land grant by congress. These four railroad corporations, viz: the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company (changed to St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company), the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley Railroad Company, the Transit Railroad Company (changed to Winona & St. Peter Railroad Company), and the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad Company. The companies were to pay 3 per cent of their gross earnings in lieu of taxes and assessments, and the lands granted by congress were to be exempt from all taxation until sold and conveyanced by the companies. The corporations were generally given ten years to construct their respective roads. The financial embarrassments of 1857 retarded the progress of railroad building, and it also became evident that the parties who had obtained the railway charters mentioned had neither the money nor credit to complete these great highways of internal improvements.

The Bond Issue. The territory of Minnesota was admitted to statehood May 11, 1858. The constitution ratified and adopted October 13, 1857, provided, in article 10, section 2, that "no cor-

porations shall be formed under special acts except for municipal purposes;" and it still further provided that "the credit of the state shall never be given nor loaned, in the aid of any individual, association or corporation." Notwithstanding the strong feeling worked up over the talk of getting bonds in the aid of railroads so badly needed in the state, the first act of the legislature, which was approved March 9, 1858, before the state was admitted, was to submit an amendment to the constitution, providing for loaning the state's credit to the four land grant roads to the extent of $1,250,000 each, or $5,000,000 in all, provided $100,000 for every ten miles to be graded, and $100,000 for every ten miles when the cars were running regularly. In return it required the roads to pledge the net income to pay the interest on the bonds, and to convey the first 240 sections of land from the government grant to the state, and to deposit in first mortgage bonds an amount equal to the loan from the state for security. This proposal occasioned much uneasiness among the most prudent of the citizens in the state; and though public meetings were held denouncing the measure, it was, however, upon being submitted to the people, on the appointed day of a special election, April 15, 1858, carried by a large majority, there being 25,023 in favor to 6,733 against the amendment. The measure afterward became known as the Five Million Loan Bill. The state bonds were of $1,000 denomination, had twenty-five years to run, with interest at 7 per cent, the railroad companies to pay the interest, and were to be delivered to the incorporators of the companies when ten miles of the road was graded and ready for the superstructure. Owing to technicalities, it was extremely difficult to market these bonds. Times were hard and the companies were unable to pay the required interest.

On the assembling of the legislature in 1860 the interest on the state bonds having been defaulted, an amendment to the constitution was adopted and submitted to the people expunging the section sanctioned and approved by them April 15, 1858, reserving only the state's rights. The electors of the state, at the general election of November 6, 1860, with unanimity, by a vote of 27,023 to 733, approved of the amendment.

Of the subsequent history of the Five Million Dollar Loan Bill the Minnesota Legislative Manual says: "Along with the prosperity of the state, caused so largely by the rapid railroad building, the state pride began to assert itself with more force, and the prominent citizens continued to urge an adjustment of the dishonored railroad bonds. In 1877 a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement was by act of the legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for June 12, and was voted down

by the decisive vote of 59,176 against to 17,324 votes for the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds, and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States. An extra session of the legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the legislature, on a basis of 50 per cent of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds to the amount of $4,282,000 to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the proceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted at the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor and 24,526 votes against, the action of the legislature was ratified and the stigma of repudiation removed, which had been fastened upon the state by the popular vote of 1877."

A different version of this matter will be found in the biographical sketch of William Meighen, which appears in this work.

The Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad was chartered by the territory of Minnesota March 2, 1855. The act to incorporate was passed on the above date by the territorial legislature. The charter granted the privilege of covering almost everything in the southern end of the state, provided the eastern terminus remained at Hokah, viz: "from the village of Hokah, in the county of Houston, and territory of Minnesota, westward by the most feasible and practicable route to some point between the south line of the territory and the point where the township line between 110 and 111 crosses the Minnesota river, thence west by the most direct and practicable route to the great bend of the Missouri river, with the privilege of a branch starting from Hokah and running to the west bank of the Mississippi, via Target Lake to Eagle Bluff in Winona county. Also the privilege of building a branch from some point on the main line east of range 12, west of the fifth principal meridian, and west-

ward through the counties of Mower, Freeborn and Faribault, to the west line of the territory; also the privilege of constructing a ship canal from the main channel of the Mississippi river to Target Lake."

On November 3 the officers met at their headquarters at Chatfield. The board then stood as follows: Clark W. Thompson, president; C. A. Stevens, vice-president; H. L. Edwards, secretary; T. B. Twiford, treasurer; H. W. Holley, chief engineer. The executive committee were T. B. Twiford, Edward Thompson, T. B. Stoddard, William B. Gere and T. J. Safford. Soon after this a survey was made by the chief engineer, H. W. Holley, from the Mississippi river to Hokah.

On December 8, 1856, a public meeting of those favorable to the construction of the road was held in Chatfield. The meeting was called to order by William B. Gere, who stated the objects of the meeting, and gave a brief history of the enterprise, stating that it was chartered in 1854, and that $50,000 had been subscribed to the stock. G. W. Willis was appointed chairman of the meeting, and Edward Dexter was selected for secretary. Earnest speeches were made by several gentlemen. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions to defray the expenses of an agent to Washington, to secure, if possible, congressional aid in the form of a land grant. It was understood that this committee succeeded in raising about $1,300 in Chatfield, and James M. Cavanaugh, afterwards member of Congress, was appointed to proceed to Washington and look after a land grant. The thanks of the meeting were voted to Col. Thomas B. Stoddard, of LaCrosse, for his untiring energy in the service of the enterprise.

The charter was amended February 27, 1857. In the meantime the land grant had passed congress, as heretofore stated, and was sigued March 4, 1857, by President Franklin Pierce, being one of his retiring acts. May 22, in accordance with this act, the Minnesota legislature passed the Land Grant act by which the territory of the road was extended, and all the land grants applicable to its route duly conferred. This was one of the original land graut roads bought in by the state of Minnesota, which later re-issued its charter and loaned the credit of the state.

The Southern Minnesota Railroad Company was the name taken by the Root River Valley & Southern Minnesota Railroad, May 23, 1857, the day after the land grant was conferred. On April 3 the railroad had a meeting at La Crescent, and a survey by the chief engineer, H. W. Holley, was ordered to be made at once, to begin at or near St. Peter and to extend thence eastward to La Crosse. The party, accordingly, started to make this survey from Chatfield to St. Peter on April 6, 1857. The survey

from St. Peter to La Crescent was completed early in June. About this time the Milwaukee & La Crosse company became interested in the proposed road.

After the Five Million Dollar Loan Bill was passed, the company executed a mortgage, issued bonds and deposited them with the state, receiving therefor $575,000 in state bonds, having at that time graded thirty-seven and one-half miles on its main branch up the Minnesota, and about twenty and one-quarter on its Root river branch. The company defaulted on the payments April 1, 1860, and the governor advertised and sold the property and conveyed the same to the state. The state conferred the property, etc., on divers occasions to various parties during the years 1861 and 1863, but they failed to comply with the conditions.

March 4, 1864, under the revived title of the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company, T. B. Stoddard, C. D. Sherwood, Clark W. Thompson, H. W. Holley, Luke Miller, Hiram Walker and their associates reorganized the company and obtained from the legislature the franchises and lands of the old company, upon the condition that ten miles should be completed in one year. But the time elapsed and the ten miles did not materialize, and the next year the legislature gave the company another year, and this time it succeeded in making the trip, and having the requisite ten miles in running condition by December 25, 1866. During the previous winter an effort had been made to secure an additional grant of land from Houston to the western boundary of the state, which was successful, and this aid was secured July 4, 1866. From this time the progress of the road was rapid. As above stated, the road to Houston was opened and running in 1866; to Rushford and Lanesboro in 1868; from Ramsey to Alden in 1869, and from Lanesboro the road was pushed on to Ramsey in 1870; the total distance being 167 miles. It will thus be seen that the road was finally constructed and put in operation by practically the same men who conceived the project in territorial days, and obtained, through their efforts, the donations that made its success possible, and without which it might never have been built. As to the personnel of the early and the later management, Col. T. B. Stoddard, of La Crosse; C. W. Thompson, of Hokah, and his brother, Edward Thompson, of the same place; and Hon. H. W. Holley, the chief engineer, who were on the board of directors, may be mentioned as standing by the company until, in 1870, the first division, from La Crosse to Winnebago City, was completed. As to the last land grant in 1866, without which the road could not, or would not have been extended west of Houston, perhaps the most credit should be given to Charles D. Sherwood, Dr. Luke Miller, C. G. Wykoff

and D. B. Sprague, who joined their fortunes with the enterprise at the reorganization in 1864.

In relation to the route of the road west of Lanesboro, where it leaves the Root River valley, the inside history would be remarkably rich reading if faithfully portrayed. Chatfield, being on the main stream, had no shadow of doubt as to its going there; Preston, the county seat, confidently expected the road. Either way would have avoided the grade west of Lanesboro.

In 1870 the Southern Minnesota railroad undertook to build a branch from Fountain to Chatfield, and the town of Chatfield voted bonds to the amount of $65,000, provided it was completed to that point by July 4, 1871. Work was commenced and some of the deeper cuts excavated, and it is reported that $70,000 was expended before the project was abandoned, which was done, as is alleged, on account of the great expense.

Soon after the building of the railroad through Fillmore county the road was involved in extensive litigation, and after various troubles the company was reorganized as the Southern Minnesota Railway Company under chapter 50 Laws of 1876, of the State of Minnesota.

The Southern Minnesota Railway Company was organized March 3, 1877. The Southern Minnesota Railway Extension Company was also organized. January 1, 1880, the Southern Minnesota, after receiving a deed from the Extension company, deeded its road from the Mississippi river to Sioux Falls, and the branch from Wells and Mankato, to the Milwaukee & St. Paul Company, the latter issuing bonds and taking possession of the road May 1, 1880.

Reno-Preston Branch. Early in November, 1873, the people of Caledonia, handicapped greatly by lack of railroad facilities, organized a railroad company, called the Caledonia and Mississippi, with a view to building a stub from Caledonia to the Mississippi river. The officers were: President, Thomas Abbotts; vice-president, A. D. Sprague; treasurer, Nicholas Koob; secretary, N. E. Dorival. This company procured a right of way and did some grading.

Nothing came of this idea, however, until the Chicago, Clinton, Dubuque & Minnesota Railroad Company, desiring feeders for its river road, conceived the idea of building a road from the Mississippi westward, through Caledonia. Accordingly this company made an offer to complete the road, iron and equip it, in consideration of certain bonuses to be voted by the citizens of the territory through which the road was to pass.

The old Caledonia & Mississippi was reorganized as the Caledonia, Mississippi & Western, and surveying and the purchase of a right of way was extended vigorously. No mention had been

made of Preston in the plans of the company. The road was to pass south of Preston, and the townships of Canton and Harmony were each asked to vote a bonus of $12,000. Caledonia voted $25,000. Canton and Harmony, however, refused to vote the bonus asked, and the company turned its attention to Preston, agreeing to make Preston the terminus of the road on condition that the citizens of Preston vote a bonus of $25,000 and persuade the citizens of Harmony and Canton to change their opinions. After a bitter fight, the conditions were fulfilled, Preston voting $25,000, Harmony, $12,000, and Canton, $12,000.

The bonuses voted and the right of way secured, it did not take long for the narrow gauge road to be built. The first shovel of dirt was thrown in June, 1879, and on September 7, 1879, the first rail was laid at Reno. The first train reached Caledonia, September 25, 1879. On Christmas day, 1879, the gang was within sight of Preston, but the cold was so intense that work was suspended and it was not until toward evening on December 26, 1879, that the first train reached Preston. This first train, a work train, was in charge of Conductor W. W. Foot and H. G. Velsey, engineer. The first passenger train, in charge of the same engineer and the same conductor, started running regularly January 19, 1880. During the construction of the road Frank Adams was constructing engineer and F. O. Wyatt, superintendent.

In April of that year the officials of the Chicago & Northwestern went over the line with a view to purchasing it, and continuing the tracks to Chatfield. But the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul heard of this, and at once purchased the road from the eastern stockholders.

From that date until 1901, the line retained its narow gauge tracks, with poor connections at Reno, and with all the freight disadvantages attendant upon the necessity of a transfer at Reno. In 1890 Senator Richard E. Thompson introduced a bill in the Minnesota legislature, authorizing the railroad and warehouse commission to order the gauge broadened. The towns along the line took up the agitation, and the company concluded to comply with the wishes of the people. Work was commenced in the summer of 1901, and the first standard gauge train reached Preston, Monday morning, November 11, 1901, at 5:30 o'clock. The train consisted of engine 1343, a combination mail, baggage and smoking car, a day coach and the superintendent's private car, occupied by several officials. The train crew consisted of W. W. Foote, conductor; Robert Byrens, engineer; J. D. Hanlon, foreman; J. D. Schwartz, express messenger and brakeman, and H. M. Rollins, mail agent.

The actual change from the narrow to the standard gauge

was accomplished with little delay. The narrow gauge passenger train brought the mail as usual on Saturday, November 9, and immediately returned to Reno. Monday morning the mail left Preston on time, as usual, on the wide gauge train and the change became an accomplished fact.

Preston-Isinours Branch. In 1870 all the gaps being filled up, the Southern Minnesota was running trains from the Mississippi to Wells. The railroad promoters were interested in Lanesboro, Fountain and Wykoff, and were in hopes that these places would grow in such a manner as to eliminate Preston from among the important villages of the county. Accordingly, the company refused to establish any stations between Lanesboro and Fountain, and those desiring to take the train from Preston had to drive to one or the other of these places. Finally the citizens of Preston organized a freighting association and obtained the permission of the railroad officials, to erect a freight house and station, the expense of building, maintaining and operating same to be borne by the citizens of Preston. The building was at once erected, and W. C. Grant was employed as operator at $45 per month. However, for a time, passenger trains stopped only when flagged. Shortly afterward, in 1871, a postoffice was established there with W. G. Grant as postmaster, and the trains were compelled to stop to leave and receive mail. After a time, when the affairs of the company reached the courts, the court ordered the new company to buy and operate the Isinours station.

When the depot was built, stage and freight lines were established from Isinours to Preston. The stage line was Preston's only public passenger connection with the outside world until the narrow gauge road was built to Reno, 1879. The narrow gauge still left Preston with nothing but the stage lines and private teams to convey passengers to the north and west. H. R. Wells for many years worked for the opening of a branch from Preston to the main line of the Southern Minnesota. Finally the president of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul consented to receive a delegation of citizens to talk over the matter. This committee, consisting of H. R. Wells, R. E. Thompson, Henry Nupson, George W. Hard, J. W. Hopp, S. A. Langum and A. W. Thompson, met President A. J. Earling, at Chicago, June 6, 1902, and after a long discussion the president promised that surveys should be made. Several surveys were made during the summer of 1902, and the company decided to build the road providing the citizens of Preston would secure a right of way, free of charge to the company. This was done, and in the spring of 1903 the citizens turned over to the company, deeds to the right of way the entire distance, the cost being met by an issue of

$5,000 bonds, which were authorized at a special village election at Preston, only thirteen voting in the negative. The railroad started work in the spring, but owing to the wet season track laying was not completed until the fall. The civil engineer in charge was C. S. Coe. The first train over the new road left Preston at 12:48, Monday, November 23, 1903, eighteen minutes after scheduled time, thus setting a precedent for tardiness which has been well sustained in the time which has elapsed since then. Wm. Shook was the conductor; Levi Kline, the engineer; George Laskey, the fireman and J. E. Ford and Gus Schultz, the brakemen. A number of leading citizens had arranged for an excursion, being met at Isinours by many prominent men of Lanesboro.

The Chicago Great Western Railroad, operating what is known as the Corn Belt route, in 1910 succeeded the Chicago Great Western Railway Company, which operated what was then known as the Maple Leaf route. The latter company was organized in Illinois, January 5, 1892, to effect the reorganization of the Chicago, St. Paul and Kansas City Railway Company, which was an Iowa corporation and had absorbed the Minnesota & Northwestern. Under an agreement with the Wisconsin, Minnesota and Pacific Railway Company, this company operated, among other lines, that from Minneapolis and St. Paul to Osage, Iowa, the Wisconsin, Minnesota & Pacific being a reorganization of one of the early Minnesota companies. It was incorporated in Minnesota in April, 1894. The line operates in the extreme western part of Fillmore county, and was originally known as the Winona and Southwestern. It was built in 1890. The line passes through Spring Valley and Bloomfield.

Chatfield & Eyota. This is a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern, and extends from Eyota on the Elroy & Tracy division. Bonds were voted by the town of Chatfield in 1878 to secure the branch to this place; the work was soon commenced and in the fall of 1878 the trains were running. As this is a short branch, the varied history of the Chicago & Northwestern is beyond the scope of this work.

CHAPTER XIII.

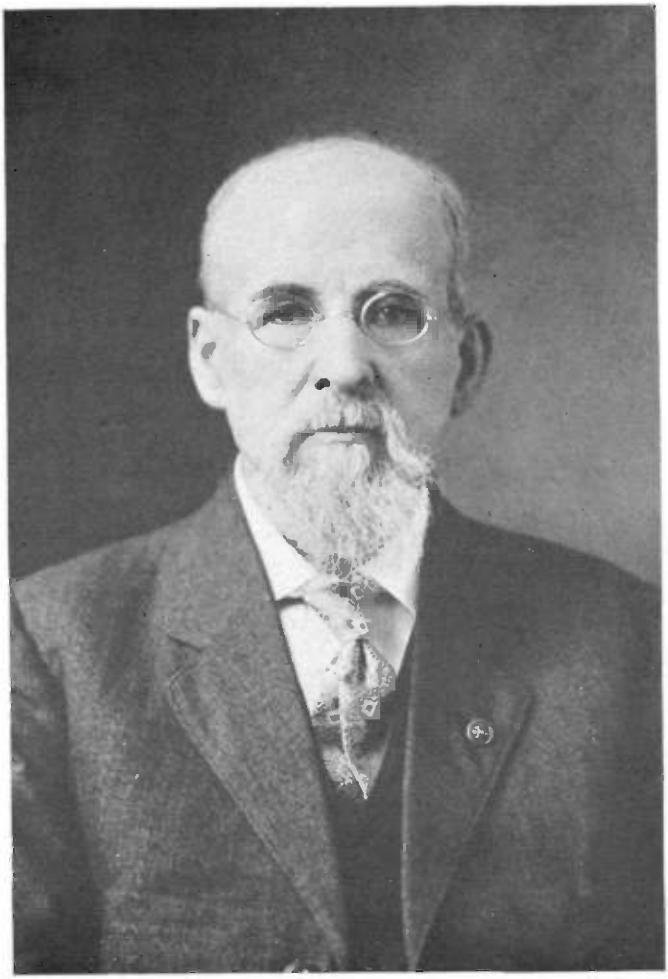
MILITARY HISTORY.

Fillmore County at the Outbreak of the Civil War—Raising of the First Company—Other Companies Sent From This County —Roll of Honor—Names of Fillmore County Veterans—Spanish-American War.

When President Abraham Lincoln issued his first call for 75,000 men to maintain the Union, April 16, 1861, Fillmore county was but eight years old as an organized county, and as present constituted had been in existence but six years. It was but thinly populated, having but 13,542 inhabitants, pioneers of a new state that had been admitted to the Union but three years. It was a cruel time to take the men from the field, store, shop and home. They had little on which to depend save the labor of their hands, and their families needed them. But an attack had been made on Fort Sumter, the flag of the Union had been fired upon, and the hearts of these hardy, patriotic men and women were fired.

At this time Alexander Ramsey, governor of Minnesota, chanced to be in Washington, and immediately sought Secretary Cameron, and in writing tendered 1,000 soldiers from Minnesota in defense of the government, which offer was presented to the President and by him accepted. The governor telegraphed these facts to the adjutant general of the state, with orders to make a call for troops. The call, however, did not reach Fillmore county in time for any of her sons to be enlisted in the original muster of the First Regiment.

Several more regiments were tendered for the First Regiment than could be accepted, and those in excess of the number required were advanced to maintain their organization in expectation that a second regiment might be called for. The second call was received by the governor of Minnesota, June 14, 1861, and immediately announced to the people of the state. Enlistment for the Second Regiment at once started. The first company to reach Ft. Snelling was Company A from Chatfield, commanded by Capt. J. W. Bishop. The captain, Judson W. Bishop, was afterward promoted to major with special mention. Charles Haven, the first lieutenant, died at Nashville, March 4, 1862. Charles H. Barnes, the second lieutenant, became captain. Levi Ober and Edward



DR. HENRY JONES

L. Kenny also became captains. Francis Hamilton and Abram Kalder became first lieutenants. Archibald McCorkle became second lieutenant.

Company C of the Third Regiment was mustered in October 11, 1861; Company B of the Fifth Regiment was mustered in March 2, 1862; Company K of the Sixth Regiment was mustered in August, 1862; Company E of the Seventh was mustered in August 15, 1862; Company D of the Eighth was mustered in November 17, 1862; Company A of the Second Cavalry was mustered in during the late months of 1863.

These were the principal Fillmore county companies, although during the entire war there were many enlistments from this county in other companies.

Company C of the Third Regiment was officered as follows: Captains, John R. Bennett, William H. Mills, Edward Hillman, David Misner, James M. Moran; first lieutenants, Lewis Hardy, William F. Grummons, Andrew J. Borland; second lieutenants, John V. Reaves, Nathaniel C. Parker. David Misner was promoted to major of the First Regiment, Minnesota Heavy Artillery.

Company B of the Fifth Regiment was officered as follows: Captains, William B. Gere, John S. Marsh, Norman Culver, James G. McGrew; first lieutenants, Thomas P. Gere, John F. Bishop. William B. Gere was promoted to major.

Company K of the Sixth Regiment was officered as follows: Captains, William H. Woodward, W. W. Braden; first lieutenant, Henry S. Bassett; second lieutenant, Charles L. Gale.

Company E of the Seventh was officered as follows: Captains, Josiah F. Marsh, Thomas G. Hall, Maxon L. Potter; first lieutenants, Alexander Wight, Hardy Lewis, Aaron H. H. Dayton. Josiah F. Marsh became lieutenant colonel of the Ninth Minnesota Infantry.

Company D of the Eighth was officered as follows: Captains, Samuel McLarty; first lieutenant, Dennis Jacobs; second lieutenant, Thomas Harris.

Company A of the Second Cavalry was officered as follows: Captains, John R. Jones, Albert R. Field; first lieutenant, William L. Briley; second lieutenant, William T. Stevens. John R. Jones was promoted to major.

In the above list of officers, in case of promotions, the highest office attained in the company is given, although most of the officers mentioned passed through various lower grades before attaining the positions given above.

When, in 1862, the local recruiting had become dull, at a time when other localities had begun to pay bounties, the county commissioners, on August 15, passed a resolution to pay a bounty to every person who would enlist in the Union army. And to show

the status of the bounty business at that time, and the restrictions under which the board acted, a full copy is presented:

"Resolved, That we will pay a bounty of $50 to all married men or men having families, and $25 to unmarried men who have or may hereafter enlist as volunteers in the United States service under the two calls of the President for 600,000 men; said volunteers being residents of the county; said bounty being payable in loan certificates, to be redeemed by issuing bonds of the county, payable in ten years, with interest at 10 per cent annually, as soon as the legislature shall authorize the issuing of said bonds; and that the auditor be and is hereby authorized to issue said certificates in accordance with the above, and that said certificate be signed by the auditor and chairman of this board; provided, that the whole quota of men apportioned to this county under the said calls be raised by volunteers; provided, further, that said certificates shall be sold for cash at their par value. Resolved, That J. W. Crees and W. T. Wilkins be and they are hereby authorized to sell said certificates, and J. B. Fraser is authorized to receive the money and pay the same to volunteers, when they shall be entitled to the same." These resolutions were signed by the board as follows: J. W. Crees, G. A. Hayes, B. F. Holman, Lewis Peterson. B. F. Holman, chairman; Niles Carpenter, county auditor.

January 9, 1863, the resolutions were modified so as to pay each volunteer in county orders, bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum from the date of issue until redeemed, which was fixed at one-third in two years, one-third in three years and the last third in four years. A provision to meet these obligations was made in the form of a special tax to be levied on the property of the county for three successive years. The chairman and auditor were made the committee on bounty claims, and were to be the disbursing agents for the money so appropriated. This, like the other, was made contingent upon the action of the legislature legalizing such a tax. A resolution was also adopted to request the honorable legislature of the state to pass an enabling act. The legislature being in session at the time, the auditor was enjoined to attend to having a certified copy of the resolution sent to St. Paul without unnecessary delay.

Each township, as their quota was ahead or behind the inexorable demands of the remorseless draft, would take measures to procure enlistments, which, with the $300 commutation, was the only means of averting the drawing.

The complete record of these regiments has many times been published and is beyond the scope of this history. It is sufficient to say that whether in the barracks or in the field, in camp or on long marches, opposing savage Indians in the Northwest, or

fighting against the Confederates in the South, the Fillmore county soldiers showed their courage, their valor and their manliness.

ROLL OF HONOR.

In this connection has been compiled from the adjutant-general's report, the names of the soldiers who enlisted from Fillmore county. If any are omitted, it is not intentional, for great care has been exercised in collecting this matter, and none have greater veneration for the brave soldier than the compilers of this volume. As the only possible way to ascertain enlistment of each soldier, is to depend upon the official reports, as published under authority of the state, any mistakes in spelling names or the omission of them entirely, should be charged to such official reports. Fillmore county was represented in the Union army as follows:

SECOND INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in July, 1861, and originally commanded by Horatio Van Cleve. Ordered to Louisville, Ky., in October, 1861, and assigned to the Army of the Ohio. It was engaged in the following marches, battles, skirmishes and sieges, viz.: Mill Spring, January 19, 1862; siege of Corinth, in April, 1862, then transferred to the Army of the Tennessee; Bragg's Raid, Perryville, October 8, 1862; skirmishes of the Tullahoma campaign, Chickamauga, September 19 and 20, 1863; Mission Ridge, November 28, 1863. Veteranized in January, 1864, and participated in the battles and skirmishes of the Atlanta campaign, viz.: Resaca, June 14, 15 and 16, 1864; Kennesaw Mountain, June 27, 1864; Jonesboro; Sherman's March through Georgia and the Carolinas, and Bentonville, March 19, 1865. The men were mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn., July 11, 1865. This regiment covered itself with laurels at the battle of Mission Ridge, where they were badly cut up in a charge they made on the enemy's works. Few Minnesota regiments, if any, performed more long and laborious marches than the "Bloody Second."

Company A. Judson W. Bishop, captain; Charles Haven, first lieutenant; Charles H. Barnes, second lieutenant; Levi Ober, sergeant; Charles Feruster, sergeant; Edward L. Kenny, William Hoffman, James F. Stewart, William A. Bennett, Andrew J. Balsinger, corporals; Baruch Denny, musician; Major D. E. Runnals, musician; John L. Kenny, quartermaster. Privates, Robert Bateman, Samuel R. Barnes, Henry C. Brown, Charles N. Corliss, Norman E. Case, Herman G. Case, John L. Collison, Thomas E. Dalton, George W. Edwards, Charles A. Edwards,

Edward A. Everts, Newton Emberry, Samuel Foster, Thomas Finch, John Fettman, John W. Farrington, Benjamin Farrington, Samuel N. Farrell, Ellick H. Gollings, Peter Laughlin, John Luark, Augustus McNeely, David N. Morse, Daniel W. Mead, Archibald McCorkle, Adam Mann, James McAdams, Lorenzo J. D. Place, Spencer J. Pitcher, George M. Pinneo, Fred H. Russell, Dennis Rose, Jacob Rose, George W. Rockwell, Charles B. Rouse, William Sackett, Robert Smalley, Henry Smalley, John W. Sawyer, Newton Scott, John H. Shipton, William R. Shipton, George R. Shipton, George S. Spaulding, Andrew J. Wheeler, Alonzo F. Worden, Frank A. West, Joseph W. Marr, Simeon A. Wellman, Ozias M. Work, Daniel C. Wilson, Joseph Wall, Warren P. Andrews, Chester Andrews, John Ayers, Charles B. Allen, Leonard Barrett, Giles A. Baker, David J. Bungamer, John C. Bateman, Charles P. Barnes, Hiram W. Clark, Alexander Carmegil, Gustus Frederick, Milton C. Fay, George G. Farrell, Wilson C. Garett, Henry Gale, Levi Hamlin, Samuel R. Henry, Francis M. Knight, Charles V. Knox, Abram Kalder, Cadwalader J. Lynch, Samuel B. Moon, Jonathan McEldry, Michael Passmore, Harvey Page, William R. Plonteaux, Charles H. Philips, Richard Rice, Andrew Sall, Walter Withers, William C. Wheeler, Fred Young, Peter Young.

Company B—Privates, Sievert Larson, J. Utley. Company C—Privates, Hiram H. Allen, James Casterton, George W. Moor, Stephen Trindall, Charles Bloom, Samuel Chapman, William Degrod, John Gurley. Company E—Privates, Albright Anfinson, Charles French, Gunder Gunderson, John Johnson, Ole Jacobson. Company F—Privates, Levi M. Shepard, James Tabor, George W. Ainsworth, George Bandle, Samuel Davis, Angevine B. Foster, Thomas H. Garraitsee, Thaddeus O. Kilburn, Richard N. Kivel. Company G—Privates, Bonifacius Hoffman, Paul Peterson, Otto Serfling. Company H—Privates, Peter Nelson, Ole F. Nelson, John Peterson, Thomas N. Shipton. Company K—Privates, William R. Haskin, Michael Kittleson.

THIRD INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in October, 1861, and originally commanded by Col. Henry C. Lester, of Winona. Ordered to Nashville, Tenn., in March, 1862. Captured and paroled at Murfreesboro in July, 1862. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., thence to Minnesota. Engaged in the Indian expedition in 1862. Participated in the battle of Wood Lake in September, 1862. Ordered to Little Rock, Ark., in November, 1863. Veteranized in January, 1864. Engaged in battle of Fitzhugh's Woods, March 30, 1864. Ordered to Pine Bluff, Ark., in April, 1864;

thence to Duvall's Bluff, September 2, 1865. Mustered out at Duvall's Bluff, September 2, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Company B. Privates, Robert E. Douglas, Henry M. Morey, Henry Ness, Joseph Palmer.

Company C. John R. Bennett, captain; Edwin Hillman, William C. French, sergeants; John F. Early, corporal; Lucian W. Allen, Byron Pendall, John Bottom, musicians. Privates, Lawrence Barr, Orin Case, Thomas Crowel, David C. Craig, Henry Craig, Henry Coyl, James P. Chapin, Franklin Chapin, Milo Dodge, John G. Duff, Hiram Essington, Jesse C. Fate, Alvah Fay, Henry W. Farnsworth, Harlem J. Farnsworth, Isaac Farnsworth, Marion L. Freeman, Henry Glass, John W. Goodwin, Martin Gaylord, William G. Hazelton, Francis B. Ide, Arthur Jennings, George D. Knox, Lewis Kimball, Walter Luce, John McDonald, William McGowan, James Nichols, Nathan Olds, Simeon Olds, Josiah W. Parker, Louis Parker, Edmund Priest, Joseph Pulford, William G. Rundall, James Root, James Stark, Sanford Satterlee, Alonzo Sherman, Ezra Scovil, Charles Wagoner, George C. Weed, Albert H. Wallace, James Workman.

Company E—Private, Ole J. Peterson. Company I—Privates, John Hamblin, Ira Henderson, John P. Owens, John Owens.

FOURTH REGIMENT INFANTRY.

This regiment was originally commanded by Col. J. B. Sanborn, of St. Paul, organized December 23, 1861; ordered to Benton Barracks, Mo., April 19, 1862; assigned to army of the Mississippi, May 4, 1862; participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Siege of Corinth, April, 1862; Iuka, September 19, 1862; Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; siege of Vicksburg, Forty Hills, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hills, assault on Vicksburg, capture of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863. Transferred from Seventeenth to Fifteenth corps; Mission Ridge, November 25, 1863; veteranized, January, 1864; Altoona, October, 1864; Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas; Bentonville, March 20, 1865, and Raleigh, April 14, 1865; mustered out at Louisville, Ky., July 19, 1865; discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn.

Company B. Privates, Marion Blacker, Joseph Lamb, Luther Turner, Theodore Anderson. Company C—Privates, Ole Joel, Robert Gilbert, James L. Wilford. Company E—Privates, John J. O'Brien, John Patterson. Company H—Privates, Engel E. Bougner, Andrew O. Hougan, Ole Neilson, Hans Samuelson, Edward A. Hostver. Company I—Private, Moses T. McGrew. Company K—Privates, Magnus Erickson, James M. Haskins,

David Imhoff, Ole Larson, George W. Miller, Cassius Sherman, John Akerson, Ole W. Gunnison.

FIFTH INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in May, 1862, and originally commanded by Col. Rudolph Borgesrode, of Shakopee. Ordered to Pittsburg Landing, May 9, 1862, leaving a detachment of three companies in Minnesota, garrisoning frontier posts. Participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Siege of Corinth, April and May, 1862. The detachment in Minnesota engaged with the Indians at Redwood, Minn., August 18, 1862, and siege of Fort Ridgely, August 20, 21 and 22, 1862; Fort Abercrombie, Dakota Territory, in August, 1862. The regiment was assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps and engaged in the battle of Iuka, September 18, 1862, and at Corinth, October 3 and 4, 1862; Jackson, May 14, 1863; and the siege of Vicksburg; assault of Vicksburg, May 22, 1863; Mechanicsburg, June 3, 1863; Richmond, June 15, 1863; Fort De Rusrey, Louisiana, March 14, 1864; Red River expedition in March, April and May, 1864; Lake Chicot, June 6, 1864, and Tupelo in June, 1864. Veteranized in July, 1864; Abbeyville, August 23, 1864; marched in September, 1864, from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, Mo., thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas state line; thence to St. Louis, Mo.; ordered to Nashville, November, 1864; battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864; Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in April, 1865; mustered out at Demopolis, Ala., September 6, 1865, and discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn. It will be seen by the above record this regiment was in active service, yet comparatively very few were killed in battle.

Company B. John S. Marsh, captain; Norman K. Culver, first lieutenant; Thomas P. Gere, second lieutenant; Russel H. Findley, first sergeant; James G. McGrew, Arlington C. Ellis, Solon A. Trescott, John F. Bishop, sergeants; Michael Pfremmer, David W. Atkins, Joseph S. Besse, William E. Winslow, Arthur McAlister, Truman D. Huntley, Charles H. Hawley, William Good, corporals; Gilbert W. Wall, Charles M. Culver, musicians; George M. Annis, wagoner. Privates, Charles H. Baker, William H. Blodget, Christ Boyer, Charles Beecher, John Brennan, Levi Carr, James Dunn, Caleb Elpha, Andrew J. Fauver, Columbia French, James W. Foster, Charles E. French, John Holmes, Elias Hoyt, William B. Hutchinson, Levi W. Ives, Christian Joeger, Darius Kanzig, James H. Kerr, Wenzel Kusda, John W. Lester, Isaac Lindsey, John McGowan, James Murray, Henry Martin, James C. McLean, James M. Munday, Wenzel Norton, Edward F. Nehrhood, Moses P. Parks, Nathaniel Pitcher, John W. Parks, Henry

F. Pray, William J. Perrington, Harrison Philips, John Parsley, Andrey Rufriedge, Heber Robinson, Antoine Robenski, Ezekiel Rose, Henry A. Shepard, Samuel Stewart, William J. Sturgis, Nathan Stewart, Allen Smith, Robert J. Spernitz, Charles W. Smith, John Serfling, William A. Sutherland, Ole Sevendson, Martin J. Tanner, Jonathan Taylor, Joel A. Underwood, Stephen Van Buren, Andrew W. Williamson, Eli Wait, Martin H. Wilson, Oscar G. Wall.

Company C—Private, Lyman C. Jones. Company G—Private, Thomas Cramp. Company K—Privates, George Steward, Oliver Knudson, Wilhelm Urban.

SIXTH INFANTRY.

The Sixth Infantry was organized in August, 1862, and ordered on the expedition against the Indians. Detachment of 200 engaged in battle at Birch Cooley, September 2, 1862. The regiment participated in the battle at Wood Lake, September 22, 1862, and garrisoned frontier posts from November, 1862, until May, 1863, when ordered upon Indian expedition; engaged with the Indians, July 24, 26 and 28, 1863. Stationed at frontier posts from September 18, 1863, to June 5, 1864, when ordered to Helena, Ark. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., November, 1864; to New Orleans, January, 1865. Assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps. Participated in engagements of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, April, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling, August 19, 1865.

Company C—Private, Thomas Shipton.

Company K. Captain, W. W. Braden; first lieutenant, Henry S. Bassett; privates, William Andrew, Peter Anderson, David Atkins, Luther Barrows, John Bottom, John H. Brown, James C. Braden, John G. Closson, Amos P. Closson, Charles D. Cooper, George Conklin, Robert Crowell, Alexander Danchy, Robert Douglas, William Drury, George Drury, Alfred Drury, John Fair, Robert Fairbanks, Daniel P. Gerry, Charles P. Gould, Ormel Gould, Alfred Haskins, Fabin Hastenson, Homer Halverson, Carl Hegenstein, Norman Hantwell, Daniel Hanson, Griffin Holmes, John Laughtenheiser, Andrew Lillie, Alonzo Laudon, William Logan, Lionel C. Long, Abraham Lang, Michael McDonnell, James McDonnell, David McKisson, Cyrus N. McMurphy, David C. Miller, Edwin Morey, James Neal, Henry Pennock, William Pulford, John S. Ransdell, Samuel Riddle, Frederick W. Shultz, Rolland R. Sisson, John C. Smith, W. J. Stewart, Calvin S. Straw, Sherburne W. Stevens, Albert Tinklepaugh, Jonathan C. Utley, John Wellington, Charles J. West, Ezra Wisel, William T. Wier.

SEVENTH INFANTRY.

The Seventh Infantry was organized in August, 1862, and ordered on expedition against the Indians. Engaged in battle of Wood Lake, September 22, 1862. Stationed at frontier posts until May, 1863, when again ordered on an Indian expedition. Engaged with Indians July 24, 26 and 28, 1863. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., October 7, 1863, thence to Paducah, Ky., April, 1864, thence to Memphis, Tenn., and assigned to Sixteenth Army Corps, June, 1864. Participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Tupelo, July, 1864; Tallahatchie, August 7 and 8, 1864. Marched in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, thence by boat to Jefferson City, thence to Kansas line, thence to St. Louis, Mo. Battles of Nashville, Tenn., December 15 and 16, 1864; Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, April, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling, August 16, 1865.

Company E. J. F. Marsh, captain; Thomas G. Hall, first lieutenant; Alexander Wright, second lieutenant; John C. Orr, Jacob C. McCormick, George W. Degroodt, John W. McNelly, sergeants; Truman D. Boughton, John McGowan, Robert H. Miller, Lorenzo D. Emmons, Ransom Walter, John T. Drummond, William E. Durand, corporals; Ira Morey, James F. Fitch, musicians; Jacob A. Rose, wagoner. Privates, William B. Allen, Arne Arneson, Ole O. Bagly, Myron J. Butler, Milton Burons, Beriah Bliss, Charles Barrett, Jerry S. Burdick, Howard A. Boice, Henry W. Bullis, Michael Bennett, John Blackburn, Christ Christopherson, George W. Craig, C. H. Chase, Barnabas Dawson, Joseph Daniels, William Drummond, Aaron H. H. Dayton, Notley D. Elless, Ole Erickson, George Farquer, Lucien B. Finch, Peter Gibney, George W. Graham, Jacob B. Gage, Charles Gorton, Freeman E. Guptil, Daniel Hall, Rasmus Hounsker, Mons Hanson, Calvin Hoag, Henry Hoffman, Mike T. Hazland, Martin Henderson, Alfred Hull, William S. Ingalls, John W. Jones, Abraham Jaycox, John H. Johnson, John Jacobson, George B. Kaldar, Albert Lloyd, Jacob C. Larson James McGowan, Robert A. Morrison, Washington McDowell, Olaus Oleson, Knud Oleson, Peter Peterson, William Priest, Maxson L. Potter, Christian Pfremmer, Ara Plomteaux, Charles H. Perry, David A. Pierce, Edward H. Rensberger, Wesley Stevens, Emery D. Seelye, James Smallen, Charles Shulz, Philander Sayles, John Server, Franklin M. Stebbins, Edwin Stork, Theodore Towsley, Thomas Thompson, Thomas B. Thompson, Charles S. Warr, George L. Walker, Spencer J. Wilber, James M. Woodward, Oliver H. Essington, Enbric Engberitson, Stephen E. Ford, John Glass, Halver Helgerson, Peter Hanson, Lars B. Larson, Madey Jacobson, Andrew Johnson, Kittle Kittleson, Jonathan Myers, Levi H. Monroe, Oliver Nelson, Amos

C. L. NELSON'S RESIDENCE

Newell, Erasmus Swenson, M. M. Sherburne, Daniel I. Sutherland, Herman Wilbur.

EIGHTH INFANTRY.

The Eighth Infantry was organized August 1, 1862. Stationed at frontier posts until May, 1864, when ordered upon Indian expedition. Engaged in the following battles, sieges, skirmishes and marches: Tat-cha-o-ku-tu, July 28, 1864; Battle of the Cedars and Overall's Creek. Ordered to Clifton, Tenn., thence to Cincinnati, Ohio, thence to Washington, thence to Wilmington, thence to Newburn, N. C. Battles of Kingston, March 8, 9 and 10, 1865. Mustered out at Charlotte, N. C., July 11, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling.

Company D. Samuel McLarty, captain; Dennis Jacobs, first lieutenant; John McGraw, first sergeant; Rufus A. Willis, James D. Freeman, sergeants; B. Nichols Ohlhues, Alfred B. Crittenden, Alfred C. Ballard, Hiram Winslow, Roscoe G. Millett, corporals; Gideon H. Hungerford, Wallace Shipton, musicians; Alexander Hall, Wagoner. Privates, Henry H. Arnold, Murray Bagely, Andrew J. Best, George D. Corp, William H. Crowl, Squire A. Cox, Henry H. Chapin, James Cramp, James M. Dennick, John Dormedy, James E. Ellis, Richard Eitman, James H. Foster, George Follensbee, John Finn, Edward W. Flanders, Charles M. Foote, Richard Fort, Lewis Fort, William Greenle, John B. Greenle, Samuel Garver, William Harrison, John Hargrave, George E. Haymaker, John T. Hart, William A. Herriman, Adams H. Hair, Adam K. Hazelton, Horatio H. Heyden, Henry Hall, Corwin Johnson, James Keck, Tobias Knudson, Comfort B. Ludding-ton, Philip Leibald, Edward Lacy, Samuel Merriman, Michael Ohllanes, Richard K. Post, Frank Panelka, Ray S. Potter, Henry Ruthburn, Leonard Scott, John W. Scott, John Thompson, Christian Thompson, Isaac D. Thompson, Richard Tuper, Jonathan Williams, George N. Williams, Danforth C. Wright, Charles O. Wood, Sewal A. Wolcott, Henry I. Young.

NINTH INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in August, 1862, and stationed at frontier posts until September, 1863, when ordered to St. Louis, Mo., and from there to Jefferson City, Mo., and distributed among several posts in the interior of the state. In May, 1864, ordered to St. Louis and from there to Memphis, Tenn. Engaged in the following battles, marches, sieges and skirmishes: Guntown Expedition, August, 1864; Tallahatchie, August, 1864; marched in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau, thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas

line, thence to St. Louis. Fought with heroism in the battle of Nashville, December 15 and 16, 1864; also at Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in April, 1865. Discharged at Fort Snelling, Minn., August 24, 1865.

J. F. Marsh, colonel; Refine W. Twitchell, assistant surgeon.

Company A. Privates, Warren D. Beebe, Ellis Dyer, Horace N. Gould.

TENTH INFANTRY.

The regiment was organized in August, 1862, and originally commanded by Col. James H. Baker, of Mankato. It was stationed at frontier posts until June, 1863, when it was ordered upon the Indian expedition. Engaged with the Indians July 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31, 1863. Ordered to St. Louis, Mo., in October, 1863; thence to Columbus, Ky., in April, 1864; thence to Memphis, Tenn., in June, 1864, and assigned to the Sixteenth Army Corps. Participated in the following marches, battles, sieges and skirmishes: Battle of Tupelo, July 13, 1864; Oxford expedition, August, 1864; march in pursuit of Price from Brownsville, Ark., to Cape Girardeau; thence by boat to Jefferson City; thence to Kansas line; thence to St. Louis, Mo.; battles of Nashville, Tenn., December 15 and 16, 1864; Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely, April, 1865. The regiment was discharged at Fort Snelling, August 19, 1865.

Company C. Privates, James W. Mallison, George A. Nicholson, Dennis Nicholson. Company E—Privates, Ludwig Oleson, Joel Rush.

ELEVENTH INFANTRY.

This regiment was organized in August, 1864. Ordered to Nashville, Tenn., engaged in guarding railroad between Nashville and Louisville until mustered out, June 26, 1865.

Company I. Charles E. Thurber, captain; Alfred C. Hawley, first lieutenant; Robert C. McCord, second lieutenant.

FIRST HEAVY ARTILLERY.

This regiment was organized in April, 1865. Ordered to Chattanooga, Tenn., and stationed at that post until mustered out, September, 1865.

Company A. Privates, Ludwig Anderson, Hiram J. Wilsie.

Company B. Privates, Martin S. Anderson, Peter Anderson, Lyman E. Carpenter, Peter Erickson, Peter M. Franklin, Harvey Franklin, Campbell W. Graham, Christopher Helleson, Peter Johnson, Olic Knudson, James McDonald, Lars Peterson, Dyman G. Stevens, Sylvester Tollifson, Tolef Tollefson. Company C—Privates, Lafayette Chipman, William Rice.

Company D. Privates, Carl Bayers, James Early, Jr., Isaac Finch, Abraham W. Finch, Randall Fay, Andrew Gorgerson, Joseph Gartner, John H. Ham, John Johnson, Lafayette F. Means, William Means, James R. Means, John Miles, George McMaster, Jens Oleson, William Oleson, John Oleson, Ole Oleson, Truls Oleson, Torkel Oleson, Samuel B. Olmsted, Luzerne W. Palmer, Knud Rasmussen, Francis Walrod.

Company H. James A. Foote, first lieutenant.

FIRST REGIMENT MOUNTED RANGERS.

Organized in March, 1863, and originally commanded by Col. Samuel McPhail, of Caledonia, Houston county. Stationed among frontier posts until May, 1863, when they were ordered upon the Indian expedition. Engaged with the Indians, July 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31, 1863. Stationed at frontier posts upon the return of the expedition until mustered out. Mustered out by companies, between October 1, 1863, and December 30, 1863.

Company F. George W. Willis, first lieutenant; Charles E. Thurber, second lieutenant.

Company I. Privates, Marvin R. Brown, Isaac Grover, John House, Inman Harrington, Louis La Taror, Paul J. Peterson, Frank R. Patten, James A. Sample, James R. Brownwell, William White.

SECOND CAVALRY.

This regiment was organized in January, 1864, and ordered on an Indian expedition in the month of May. Several engagements with the Indians in July and August of that year. Stationed at frontier posts until mustered out by companies between November, 1865, and June, 1856.

Company A. John R. Jones, captain; Albert R. Field, first lieutenant; William L. Briley, second lieutenant; William T. Stevens, first sergeant; Francis E. Wheeler, quartermaster sergeant; Josiah E. Vangordon, commissary sergeant; Francis B. Ide, Taylor Knight, sergeants; Henry B. Corey, William B. Blodget, corporals; Alfred Dawson, bugler; George A. McNair, saddler. Privates, Alfred Bowman, William Benson, Gottlieb Busse, Amby S. Blowers, Francis H. Craig, John L. Cross, Benjamin Day, Eugene Dexter, Caleb Elphee, Jr., Francis Eagle, William H. Graham, Jacob Glider, William Goedert, Homer R. Hills, Edwin Harkness, Lysander G. Harkness, Anton Kleever, William H. Morrell, Richard McConnell, Robert A. Miller, Ansel S. Merwin, William H. Merwin, Spencer J. Pitcher, Thomas B. Root, Henry M. Seeley, Charles Schintle, Henry Snyder, Soloman J. Shipton, Frederick Schroeder, George Turner, Charles Taylor,

William T. Wickerman, Henry Graham, William Kilpatrick, Fielder Dodge, Barnabas Rucker.

Company B—Private, Franklin H. Wells. Company I—Privates, Jasper W. Barneard, John Hayworth, Hugh Livingston.

HATCH'S BATTALION.

The Independent Cavalry was organized July 20, 1863. Ordered to Pembina, October, 1863. Ordered to Fort Abercrombie, May, 1864. Stationed at above fort until mustered out in April and June, 1866.

Company A—Private, Isaac C. Wait. Company B—Privates, Garrett Duryea, Thaddeus A. Wilkins. Company C—Private, George W. Plummer. Company D—Private, Wesley Baldwin.

BRACKETT'S BATTALION.

Company A. Privates. Alfred H. Foot, Samuel Taylor, Hiram A. Buck. Company C—Private, Samuel S. Belding.

Company D. George W. Wilder, first lieutenant; George H. Smith, Levi Gates, James S. Lea, George W. Beebe, corporals; privates, Horatio N. Austin, H. H. Bryant, Hugh A. Hoy, George Hoy, James Louth, Daniel Paul.

OTHER REGIMENTS.

First Battery Light Artillery. Frederick Flohr, artificer; privates, Daniel Meyers, Isaac W. Rush, John Ward, Leonidas Woodle.

Second Battery Light Artillery. Privates, Henry Anderson, Martin O. Fossom, Tennis Hanson, Ingebreth Johnson, Christopher Johnson, Henry R. Rouse, Thomas Clark.

PROTECTION OF SOUTHERN FRONTIER.

Following is the roster of Capt. C. L. Post's company of Fillmore County Volunteer Mounted Infantry, organized September 1, 1862, and served until October 6, 1862. This company was in Col. Charles E. Flandrau's expedition for the defense of the southern frontier.

Captain, C. I. Post; first lieutenant, Fred Atchison; second lieutenant, Peter McCracken; first sergeant, George Hoy; quartermaster, T. C. Robinson; assistant quartermaster, S. Russell; sergeants, J. R. Malone, Avery Duey, N. V. Baker, E. V. Farrington; corporals, L. Postle, D. Hamil, Samuel Hamil, E. Thurber, W. H. Carsen; baggage master, B. F. McVey; teamsters,

Isaac E. Grout, Richard King; privates, C. C. Abbott, M. H. Albro, A. S. Adams, F. P. Alten, Smith Atchison, A. E. Bryant, John Balch, Thomas Butrick, L. M. Benson, I. S. Blacker, Isaac Carduff, James Carduff, N. Cowley, I. S. Christie, W. F. Davis, S. Eggleston, M. C. Edwards, G. C. Fischer, A. W. Finch, S. R. Green, Charles Gore, L. J. Glasgow, Ira Henderson, William Hand, E. H. Hathaway, Philo Ingalls, Michael King, John King, James Lea, Willard Lester, David Luse, A. G. Lumbard, T. R. Malone, James McDermott, Ole Oleson, Mark Pulley, A. Retford, Henry Stage, R. M. Smith, John Simmons, S. G. Shipton, T. C. Utley, Hiram Walker, E. P. Wall, Siras J. White, Adolph Waller.

Following is the roster of Company A, Fillmore County Volunteer Militia, commanded by Capt. N. P. Colburn, organized September 1, 1862, and served until October 4, 1862. This company served with Col. Charles E. Flandrau in his expedition for the defense of the southern frontier.

Captain, N. P. Colburn; first lieutenant, Harvey C. Marsh; second lieutenant, George Onstine; quartermaster, Ephram McMurtre; assistant quartermaster, William W. Fife; first sergeant, Alvin V. Tillotson; sergeants, Justin Seelye, Stephen Carpenter, J. P. Howe, A. Millford; corporals, Samuel M. Hunt, H. M. Onstine, Robert Richardson, Thomas Tuft; privates, O. A. Andrews, Youngs Allen, L. O. Bliss, D. Bryon, T. B. Billmat, G. A. Baker, Edward Burnhaim, R. S. Buckmister, T. N. Brown, James C. Brown, I. Catheart, L. E. Comstock, John Cleghorn, T. P. Chase, John Carnegia, John Chandlier, Andrew Dickey, F. H. Day, Gilbert Donaldson, Henry Donald, George Eddy, William Elliott, H. Franklin, N. E. Fay, M. C. Fay, I. D. Franklin, James Foot, Frank Frazier, Robert Flemming, C. M. Graham, Henry Gale, M. H. Gore, John Galbraith, David Higley, W. L. Hutchins, I. M. Ham, A. A. Ham, L. L. Hashness, Lewis Hashness, B. G. Hicks, Stephen Ives, D. Jones, John Johnson, C. V. Knox, John Kemple, E. S. Kingsbury, A. Lashmet, John Lashmet, Elias Lint, I. Lindeman, William Larkin, James Means, George McGowan, H. A. Morrow, C. N. McMurphy, L. F. Means, Aason Merion, Henry Mowry, Joseph Newell, A. A. Newton, S. B. Newcomes, Luther Ober, Moses Osen, H. C. Prosser, I. B. Pulver, A. Prostman, Stephen Perry, G. L. Potter, John Priest, John Plumtaux, Sr., John Plumtaux, Jr., Howard Rose, F. B. Root, T. D. Risen, E. S. Streeter, Robert Sturgeon, Joseph T. Starr, D. W. Seelige, John Sims, E. A. Serfling, Jacob Schweitzer, H. N. Sherburne, William Stroud, James R. Stroud, Williams Stephens, William Taylor, Henry Tillotson, I. Vought, G. B. Warner, William Wilkinson, Watts Williams, Charles E. Wheeler, S. F. Walker, R. Workman, Q. A. Woster, Henry Ward.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American war Fillmore county had one military company, known as Company F, Second Infantry, Minnesota National Guards. It was located at Spring Valley, but also had members from other towns in the county. The company, commanded by Capt. Roy Viall, was called into the service of the United States by the president, at Spring Valley, April 29, 1898, to serve for a period of two years unless sooner discharged. The company on that same day traveled to St. Paul and went into camp. At that time the commissioned officers were: Captain, Roy Viall; first lieutenant, Frank Rensberger; second lieutenant, F. H. Viall. First sergeant was O. C. McCary. Captain Viall served until mustered out. Lieutenant Rensberger resigned, and his place was taken by Louis Miller. Lieutenant Miller died and William Denny, of St. James, was assigned to Company F, as first lieutenant, October 6, 1898. Lieut. F. H. Viall resigned July 11, 1898, and his place was taken, July 20, 1898, by Burdett C. Thayer, who had been mustered in as battalion sergeant major.

The Second Infantry, which included Company F, was enrolled on April 29, 1898, as the Twelfth Regiment, Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and mustered into the service of the United States, at Camp Ramsey, St. Paul, May 6 and 7, 1898. The regiment left Camp Ramsey, May 15, 1898, for Camp Thomas, Georgia, arriving May 19, 1898, and was assigned to the First Brigade, Third Division, First Army Corps. The regiment left Camp Thomas, Georgia, August 23, 1898, and reached Camp Hamilton, Ky., August 24, 1898. Under orders to return home the regiment left Camp Hamilton, Ky., September 15, 1898, arriving at New Ulm, Minn., Sept. 17, 1898, where it entered camp the following day. Pursuant to General Orders, No. 130, A. G. O., 1898, and General Orders, No. 17, Regimental Headquarters, the regiment was furloughed for thirty days from September 21, 1898, and was mustered out of the service, November 5, 1898.

At the time of the muster out the roll of Company F was as follows:

Captain, Roy Viall; first lieutenant, William Denny; second lieutenant, Burdett C. Thayer; first sergeant, O. C. McCleary; quartermaster sergeant, John H. Helger; sergeants, Homer Barnes, William N. De Groot, Eugene K. Allard, James M. Patterson; corporals, Frank M. Dawley, Alvin H. Howard, Martin Forkelson, William J. Bly, E. Madden, Samuel W. Stockhill, Frank F. Wittenburg, Sylvester Berg, Frank W. Ford, Jesse D. Schwartz, Michael J. Healy, William N. Hostetler; musicians, Ben. R. Benson, George B. Alden; wagoner, Harry Tabor;

artificer, Lars Pierson; privates, Carl O. Alm, James W. Anderson, James N. Arnold, Charles H. Banks, George E. Barr, Adolph G. Blagsvedt, Howard P. Bobb, George A. Boyd, Frank A. Bradburn, William H. Brazington, Wallace Brooks, George Bush, Reynold Bucholz, Roger Byrnes, Charles M. Cattle, Alex. J. Christiansen, William E. Chamberlin, Thomas Conway, Morris Crowell, James E. Egen, Charles Engle, John E. Ford, Frank Furney, Clarence S. Fuller, Walter B. Geiser, Peter Goplen, Frank A. Gleason, Frank W. Graves, Evan R. Green, Chris. G. Haase, Emil C. Hanson, Brynjulf Halvorson, John D. Manlon, William Holland, Charles H. Holmes, John Hoffman, Bernard Jacobs, Norwin Johnson, Olaf J. Johnson, Eddie Joseph, Ludwig Lukkason, Peter Mader, Jacob A. Magelssen, Robert E. McKee, David A. McKee, Lessing J. Mengis, William W. Mose, Charles A. Morrow, James T. Mulligan, Michael M. Mulroy, Patrick J. Murphy, Louis Narveson, Patrick L. Newcome, Joseph J. Nedd, Charles Northway, Harry W. Palmer, Harry R. Perry, Alex Perry, Hollister L. Pease, William F. Pulford, Roy Rogers, Henry A. Schwanke, Conrad G. Selvig, Herbert Severson, James Stewart, Matthew Sweeney, Albert W. Thayer, Frank Turner, George Vail, William A. Wall, Fred E. Welch, George R. Weeks, Alfred Winslow, Evan L. Williams, Frank Wright, Martin R. Young, Peter G. Zierath.

Resigned. Frank J. Rensberger (first lieutenant), resignation to date from July 15, 1908. Frank H. Viall (second lieutenant), resignation to date from July 11, 1908.

Transferred. George F. Cady, sergeant, promoted to sergeant major. Leo. C. Bloomer, private, transferred to Twelfth Minnesota Band. Harry W. Johnson, private, transferred to hospital corps. Emery C. McCumber, private, transferred to hospital corps. Howard N. Stillman, private, transferred to hospital corps.

Died. Louis Mueller, first lieutenant, died at New Ulm, Minn., September 1, 1898, typhoid fever. Fred E. McDermott, private, died at St. Paul, September 13, 1898, typhoid fever.

CHAPTER XIV.

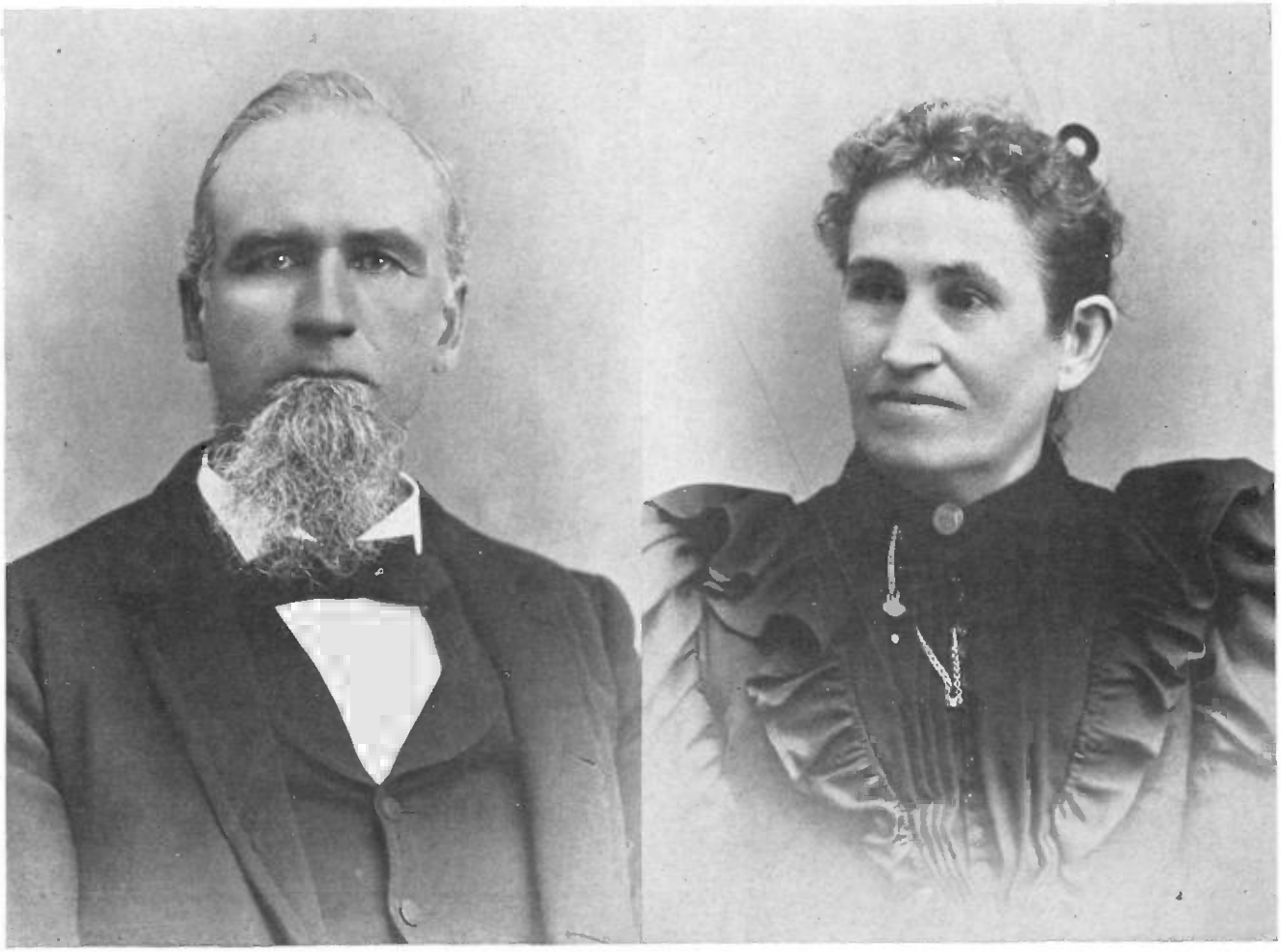
INCIDENTS AND EVENTS.

Notes Culled From the Early Newspapers Regarding Fillmore County People—Happenings From 1857 to 1880—Items Which Recall the Names and Characteristics of the Earlier Settlers.

The every day life of the people as shown in the newspapers is always of interest. In order that these simple incidents may not be forgotten, this chapter has been compiled from various sources. It is not intended to be a history of the county for the years it covers, but contains many incidents which cannot fail to prove of interest and which do not appear elsewhere in this volume.

1857. On December 3, 1856, there was a very deep snow that remained on the ground. On December 27 there was a rain which froze as it fell, leaving a glassy crust which would bear up an ordinary man, but it proved most disastrous to the deer, whose sharp hoofs, when the animal was on the run, would cut through at every jump, and the settlers, with whom fresh meat had been an almost unobtainable luxury, were quick to avail themselves of this advantage to procure venison. A dog that could run without inconvenience would soon overtake a deer and bring him to bay, and he would soon be floundering helplessly in the crust-broken snow, when he would be dispatched with any convenient weapon. The numbers thus slain seem most incredible. Incidents relating to this slaughter appear in the town histories. It is a fact that this winter well nigh exterminated the deer throughout the wide region where this icy condition prevailed. In April, C. Wilson, of Chatfield, undertook to bore an artesian well. In May, the Root River Valley railroad engineers reached Chatfield, laying out a line which was never built. In consequence of the hard times the proprietor of the old water sawmill, one mile from Chatfield, in the winter agreed to saw lumber at $5 per thousand feet. The first issue of the "Chatfield Democrat," on September 11, says that "Forty acres of land adjoining the Chatfield town plat sold for $90 per acre."

1858. Quite a serious accident happened to one of A. M. Walker's stages as it neared Fillmore village, in this county, on February 3. In attempting to cross a small stream or creek, the



MR. AND MRS. JAMES HOAG

wheel of the stage came in contact with a large boulder and the stage was instantly thrown upon its side, forcing one of the wheel horses down with it. The horse, being held down by the tongue and fore part of the stage and hampered with the harness, was drowned. There were three passengers in the coach at the time, who luckily escaped without further injury than an "unsought wash" and good ducking. J. S. Weider, clerk in the office of the receiver of the U. S. Land office in Chatfield, en route for Dubuque, was one of the three. On February 10 a party of gentlemen left Chatfield for the purpose of hunting. At that day game of every species abounded in Fillmore county, and especially may this be said of the country immediately surrounding the village of Chatfield. The gunning party was having good luck, and the indications were that they would be bountifully repaid for their labor, when, by the accidental discharge of one of the guns, Nathan P. Langdon, of Chatfield, was shot in the leg below the knee, breaking both bones and otherwise mangling his limb in a horrible manner. He was immediately taken to Chatfield and placed under the treatment of Dr. Cole of that place, but in spite of the best of care it became necessary to amputate the limb. On April 15 the county of Fillmore held its election in regard to the loan of the state credit to various railroads to the amount of $5,000,000. The vote of the then principal towns in the county was as follows: Chatfield, for 292, against 86; Preston, for 178, against 68. Throughout the county the vote averaged 4 to 1 in favor of the loan; the majority was 1,500. A table compiled June 5 shows that at that date Fillmore county had 9,893 inhabitants and 1,822 dwellings. The county contained an area of 864 square miles. On August 16 five prisoners confined in the county jail at Preston for various offenses, entered into a conspiracy to escape. They succeeded in their undertaking by bending the window bars. Of the five who got away only one was ever heard from; he, after traveling on foot some forty or fifty miles, returned once more to the jail. On September 5 a little daughter of Maj. J. R. Bennett, of Chatfield, being alone in the yard, fell headforemost into a tub of water and remained there some time before being found. When discovered and taken out life appeared to be extinct, but with exercise of great presence of mind by the parents taking the necessary course to effect a resuscitation, the life of the little one was saved. On Friday, September 17, T. Sawyer, a citizen in the vicinity of Chatfield, met with a very serious accident. He was engaged with a machine threshing grain several miles from town and while it was in motion he attempted to pass from one side of the feeder to the other when, his foot slipping through, was caught and torn off above the ankle, ripping flesh and bones to strips and mangling the limb in a frightful manner. Physicians

were immediately brought, who amputated the fractured limb close to the knee joint. William Henry Dean, M. D., died October 18 at Spring Valley. The doctor was a graduate of the Michigan University at Ann Arbor and came here at an early day. October 7, in company with several ladies and gentlemen, he was at the mill of Mr. Stevens and the members of the party were being weighed on a platform scale. It being just at dusk, the doctor did not observe a rapidly revolving shaft near where they stood, which caught a shawl he wore and whirled him around and around, striking him against the scales at every revolution until the mill was stopped. Death came to his relief eleven days afterward.

1859. In this year the Fillmore County Bank had in circulation $25,000 in bills, secured by a deposit of stocks with the state auditor. June 30 there was a flood on the Root river; the bridge at Chatfield was carried away and other damage done. A land sale was ordered for November 14 and various attempts were made to postpone it. The spring election was held and the question as to whether the county seat should be removed was voted upon. The village of Preston, receiving a majority of the votes cast, was designated as still the county seat and the several county offices were retained there. On June 2 a boy named Seeley, twelve or fourteen years of age, fell over the high precipice on the opposite side of the river below the Preston mill and into the river below, dislocating his hip and otherwise injuring his body. After reaching the water he was barely enabled to save himself from drowning by taking hold of the willows and bearing himself up until assistance reached him. On the night of August 6 burglars entered the boot and shoe store of Richardson in Chatfield. They took three pairs of boots and escaped. In the times of 1859 in the stage business there was considerable competition and the stage that made the best time could command higher fare and a majority of the travelers. On July 20 of that year two rival stages started from Winona for Chatfield, both bent on keeping in the lead. When within a few miles of Chatfield the driver of the stage on the Walker Line, which had up to this time been the loser in the race, thought he discovered a chance by which to pass his adversary and make Chatfield in time to gather the laurels. Accordingly he suddenly gave vent to an Indian war-whoop and, playing his long whip upon his horses, darted alongside the other stage. The plan would have worked well, but just as he was turning into the road to take the leadership he turned too short and the stage hovered upon the two side wheels for an instant and went over with a crash. Several arms were broken and many bad bruises received. On September 5 there was a severe frost in the county, doing much damage.

1860. Early in June there was a notable picnic at Chatfield, some 418 persons being present. On March 16 the Carimona Hotel at Carimona took fire from a defective flue and burned to the ground. About this time the numerous thefts of horses in the southern part of the state caused much uneasiness in Fillmore county. In August the home of W. H. H. Graham, living a mile west of Chatfield, was sorely afflicted. August 7 W. H. H. Graham, Jr., aged five years, died. August 15 another child of the same family, Nina Bell, died at the age of three years. The next day Mrs. Graham, the mother, died. One day later Ralph, the infant son, died, thus bereaving Mr. Graham of his entire family. Mr. Lee, of Fillmore, on September 8 threshed 480 bushels of No. 1 wheat from the sheaves of fifteen acres, averaging thirty-two bushels per acre. A fatal accident occurred in Carrolton township on August 6. Michael O'Shaughnessy, son of Patrick O'Shaughnessy, in company with his brothers, were out shooting and, by some means unknown, a gun in the hands of one of the party was accidentally discharged, the contents of which entered the face of the unfortunate boy and killed him almost instantly. In October the Chatfield mills were grinding night and day and turning out flour at the rate of 300 barrels per week.

1861. It was estimated in Chatfield that for the year 1861 an average of thirty passengers arrived and departed daily. At this time there were three lines of stages through Chatfield east and west. The breaking out of the war in April, 1861, gave universal attention to recruiting, and many items, otherwise noticeable, were overlooked during that stormy period, being overshadowed by the unusual and mighty events of that belligerent period.

1862. On May 25, a five-year-old girl of Michael Langham, of Fountain township, was playing near the fire when by some means her clothes caught in the flames, and before assistance could reach her she was burned so badly that she expired in a few hours. On September 1 occurred the frontier panic. The massacre at New Ulm had just taken place and there was hardly a road in Fillmore county that some excited individual, who had lost his head, would not ride through, usually bareback, shouting "Flee from the Indians!" "Flee from the Indians!" and without halting to explain, yelled that "the town right back was in ashes!" There was not an Indian within 140 miles, but without stopping to consider the absolute and utter impossibility of the Indians thus sweeping across the country like a tornado, destroying everything in their track, a majority at once caught the infection and acted on the impulse to save themselves and families from the murderous tomahawk and scalping knife. The scenes that followed can easily be imagined. What transportation could be had at hand was at once put in requisition; the family was hurried

into the vehicle, and what few articles were most highly prized that could be carried were bundled in and away they went, resolved to make no unnecessary delay in putting the Mississippi river between them and the bloodthirsty savages. Such was the haste that no attempt was made to run off the stock, and usually the garden gates and the fences were opened to let the cattle luxuriate on the misfortunes of their owners. In most instances the houses were left wide open, and not unfrequently the table would be hastily spread with the hope that when the savages arrived they would stop to eat and thus the fugitives would gain time to get beyond their reach. The first evening of the stampede there was a frightful rain and some of the jaded ones would halt and occupy some deserted residence. There was an occasional cool head who tried to stop the bewildering rush, but could do little to arrest the panic. Some of the men who tried to reassure the crowd by protesting that there was no danger were accused of being in league with the Indians and were plotting for a wholesale destruction. The village of Preston was literally jammed full of people and teams. The houses were full, the shops were full, as well as the mills and every available shelter, and a single shot, or an unusual shout on that terrible night, would have completed the demoralization of the already panic stricken heterogeneous gathering. In every instance the positive news came that the very next town had been burned and the people butchered—not a single individual left to tell the tale of their taking off. And as fugitives began to arrive from miles away, not having seen a single red savage on the warpath, reason began to assert itself and the scare was on. An accident took place at Elliota on November 14. A boy about fourteen years of age, a son of Mr. Hicks, residing about two miles west of Elliota, was found in a ditch beside the road and a horse that he had been riding on the top of him. When found both boy and horse were dead.

1864. On September 3 an accident occurred at the Medary House in Chatfield, which resulted in the drowning of an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Freeman, aged two months. A little daughter of Mrs. Norton was carrying the child, and on passing through the door leading from the dining room to the kitchen, made a misstep, which precipitated both into a cistern which was located at that point. Mr. Burdick, the proprietor, immediately jumped into the cistern, where the water was about twelve feet deep, and succeeded in saving Mrs. Norton's child, which he thought was the only one in the cistern. After he came out Mrs. Freeman said her child was in also, when another person jumped in and brought out the body of the infant which had sunk. The body was in the water about ten minutes and when brought out

life had departed. During the summer and fall of 1864 many of the three-year men who enlisted in 1861 were returning. On October 26 Mrs. Churchill, of Chatfield township, was thrown from a wagon and so fatally injured that she died the next day. The accident was caused by the oxen taking fright, running off and upsetting the wagon. She was twenty-six years old, and at the time was assisting her husband in gathering corn. On November 12 the granary of Peter Johnson, three miles below Chatfield, together with 300 or 400 bushels of wheat, was destroyed by fire between 10 and 11 o'clock at night. The fire was set by a young girl not seventeen years of age, named Mary Pettis, who had formerly resided with the family of Mr. Johnson. The culprit was caught within two miles of where the deed was done and confessed the crime. Upon trial, however, she was acquitted upon promising to reform. Capt. Edwin Hillman, of Sumner township, Fillmore county, died in Winona, December 24. Captain Hillman commanded Company C in the Third Minnesota Regiment. He was fifty years of age at the time of his death, and was an Englishman by birth; a brave man, and a gallant officer.

1865. On February 25, Mr. McDonald, of Newburg township, in attempting to cross the branch of Root River at Preston with a two-horse team at the ford, was swept down by the flood of ice and water and drowned, together with both horses. On June 10 an insane woman, wife of John Long, living two miles west of Preston, struck her granddaughter, a girl of thirteen years, a blow on the side of the head with a club. The child was not considered at first as being dangerously hurt, but on the day following while attending her usual duties, suddenly fell down in a spasm and died within an hour. On August 18 Zenas Root and his grandchild, of Spring Valley township, were drowned in a sink hole where they were watering horses.

1866. On Monday night, August 6, the comparatively small stream known as Weisel creek, on the south branch of Root river, suddenly commenced swelling at an alarming degree, and the formerly harmless creek or placid brook had in a few hours become a rushing torrent, foaming and boiling over its banks, overflooding the surrounding country and carrying disaster, death and destruction before it. The first obstacle coming in the torrent's way, consequently meeting its destruction, was the dwelling house of David Weisel. It was struck broadside by the rushing flood, swept from its foundation and crushed into fragments in an instant. The occupants of the house at the time were David Weisel, his wife, his mother, a lady over eighty years of age, and a nephew named John Weisel, twelve years of age, also relatives from Burr Oaks, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Brace, all of whom met a watery grave except Mrs. David Weisel, who was found the

following morning still clinging to her bed, on which she had floated down the stream, and was rescued from her perilous position. She told her rescuers and others that herself and Mrs. Brace had been talking together while journeying down the stream; the last of their conversation was when Mrs. Weisel inquired of her companion how she was getting along, the reply was "God have mercy on me!" This was her last utterance. There was one man who found his house going down stream; he managed to get on the roof and made his voyage in safety, finally making a landing against two sturdy elm trees, and in the morning his cries for assistance soon brought relief. The next dwelling in the path of the flood was that of Jonas C. Wellington. The occupants were Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Wellington, and a grandson named Charley C. Gage, four years old, all of whom were drowned. Several miles below another dwelling, containing one man, two women and five children, was carried away and all drowned. The flood soon subsided, but it will long be remembered, as it carried with it the lives of sixteen human beings. J. C. Burbank & Co. this year established a stage line between Rushford and Winnebago City, via Preston, and an express was added from La Crescent. During this year, when the Southern Minnesota railroad was being surveyed, the people of Preston confidently expected that the extension from Lanesboro would carry it along the south branch of the Root river and thus through Preston, and several parties engaged in local enterprises to meet this favorable condition of affairs. And Chatfield, whose citizens had done everything possible to secure the building of the road, also expected that their larger branch of the river would be followed, but other views prevailed.

1867. On May 13 a meeting was held at the Court House in Preston to see about securing the right of way for the Southern Minnesota railroad, which, it was still supposed, would be bound to run through Preston. Reuben Wells was chairman of the meeting and S. B. Murrel secretary. The matter was placed in the hands of a committee, consisting of A. H. Butler, D. B. Coleman, A. Bergen, W. T. Wilkins, S. B. Murrel, Thomas Quinn, H. A. Billings, Dr. L. Redmond, J. E. Burbank and N. P. Colburn. In May the Southern Minnesota railroad land office was removed to Rushford from Houston, where it had previously been located. A severe frost struck this region on August 30, doing much damage.

1868. The total reported valuation of Fillmore county in 1868 was $3,789,710. A state teachers' institute was held in Preston in October. Hon. Mark H. Dunnell was the superintendent. The railroad reached Lanesboro in November, and early in December a celebration took place. The dinner, the speeches, the toasts and responses were appropriate for the occasion. The

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people turned out, and numerous invited guests were there. It was a fitting inauguration of the new order of things.

1869. On February 24 several business houses on the main street in Chatfield were destroyed by fire. Total loss about $4,000. In the fall of this year the Southern Minnesota Railroad Company obtained 32,342 acres of land.

1870. A fireproof vault was built on the west end of the Court House for the safe keeping of the records. F. G. Parker had the contract. Preston people, being disappointed in securing the railroad, made a virtue of necessity and got a depot at the nearest available point on the farm of Mr. Isenhour. On August 26, Peter Halverson, a Norwegian of Amherst township, met with a most serious accident. While drawing a mower the horses took fright and ran away, tearing through the field at a frightful gait, with the mower in full gear. Mr. Halverson attempted to jump off, but in doing so failed to clear one foot from the sickle and it was completely several from the leg.

1871. On February 24 there was a great flood on the Root river. Nearly all the dams above Lanesboro were swept away; on the southern branch those only at Prestou remained, and they were seriously injured. In the spring of this year there was a bitter contest in relation to the payment of the railroad bonds. Fillmore county was considerably excited. A proposition was submitted to the people, and decided in the negative by a majority, in the state of 12,206 in a total vote of 21,499. On June 30, 1871, five business houses in the village of Chatfield were destroyed by fire.

1872. In January there was a fearful snowstorm and a general blockade, and in the town of Granger there was a heartrending case of the freezing to death of a whole family. It seems that Rev. Mr. Evans, a Welsh minister, was out in the terrible storm with his wife and two children, and when within three-fourths of a mile of his home on his return the team could go no further, and leaving his wife and one child he carried the other, the eldest, home. He then returned for his little one, and leaving his wife wrapped up in some blankets he had brought from home, he started with the child but lost his way, and they both perished. The little one at home was found dead, as was also the mother and wife in the road. Levi Engle died May 11, 1872, at the age of fifty-two years and nine months. He was born in Alleghany county, Maryland, on September 25, 1817, and when still a young man joined the Methodist Church at Western Port, Md. Soon after he was licensed as an exhorter, which position he nobly filled for two years, then received local orders and worked for twenty-four years in this ministry. Jonas Conkey died September 15, 1872. He was a native of Bridgeport, Vt., born in 1795. He

was in Clinton county, New York, while young and up to 1844. He afterwards lived in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. After 1861 he lived in Minnesota. In 1830 he was received into the Presbyterian Church at Plattsburg, N. Y. At the organization of the Presbyterian Church in Preston he was constituted a ruling elder, which position he held until his death, at the residence of his son, William P. Conkey.

1873. January 6 Mr. and Mrs. William Carpenter, of Preston, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of their wedding day by a tea party. Julia Scott King died August 20. She was born April 13, 1827, and on May 16, 1860, married Almond King.

1874. In this year a vigilance committee was organized to operate against horse thieves. The knowledge that such an institution existed settled the matter. On June 10 the citizens of Sumner were horror stricken and excited over the finding of the remains of two human beings in a box in a branch of the Kedron. Dr. Grover, the coroner of Rushford, was sent for, but the surmises that there had been a murder most foul were dispelled when it was found that they were cadavers left in the brook by an enthusiastic medical student to macerate, that he might the more easily secure the skeletons. About the middle of June a party of Scandinavians were crossing the Root river at Newman's ford, on their way to a wedding, when the horses became frightened and unmanageable and ran, violently throwing the occupants of the wagon out in deep water, drowning one of the women and her little babe. On June 20 there were two railroad accidents on the Southern Minnesota road. High water was the cause in both cases. One of them was two miles and a half west of Spring Valley, where the train going west, on crossing a culvert, after the engine and tender had got over, the cars went down and were promiscuously piled up. No one was injured. The other accident was seventeen miles west of this, and happened about the same time, to the train moving east. Here the water was very high, up to the bottom of the rails, so that they appeared all right to the engineer, but the support had been washed away, and as the engine came upon the foundationless rails down it dropped with the tender; Cummings, the fireman, was crushed and instantly killed, while Brown, the engineer, escaped death with broken bones and other contusions. In July, while removing the temporary bridge at the point of the Spring Valley accident, William Nobles was instantly killed by being struck by a timber that was being hauled out by an engine, and Robert Lossing was also injured. On August 14 Frank Kefas, a son of Henry Kefas, was drowned at Lanesboro. In September a large black bear came within a half mile of Lanesboro. The following figures show the amount of business done in Lanesboro this year: Flour sold,

77,299 barrels; amount paid for wheat, $440,400. Barley bought, 57,000 bushels. Lumber sold, 2,082,200 feet. Disbursements: Flour and wheat trade, $4,000,000, and this at a single point in the county, which will convey an idea of its resources. On Saturday night, November 7, the valuable flouring mill of Valentine & Tew, at Rushford, was destroyed by fire. There was also consumed 9,000 bushels of wheat. The total loss was $20,000.

1875. Mark Hunt died February 10, 1875, at Winona, and his remains were brought to Lanesboro for burial. In January the store of S. A. Hunt, of Spring Valley, was robbed of about $200 worth of goods. On February 7, there having been an accident by which some freight cars were ditched about a mile and a half east of Lanesboro, a train that had been sent out to assist in transferring the freight met with another accident, by which the caboose jumped the track and went down a trestle eighteen feet, and although the car was well filled with men and tools, no one was more than slightly injured. Joel S. Sawyer, an early settler, died May 24, 1875, at Chatfield. At Lenora on July 3 the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Bryant was commemorated. Seventy-five persons were present. In 1875 there were in Fillmore county 2,989 farms and 276,167 acres of cultivated land. On August 30 much damage was done by flood on the Root river. On July 5 a reunion of the veterans of Company A, Second Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, took place at Chatfield. W. C. Garrett was called to the chair and John F. Healy was appointed secretary. The following veterans answered to their names: L. Ober, H. G. Case, S. B. Moon, G. R. Shipton, C. E. Burk, W. R. Shipton, B. Farrington, L. J. D. Place, Sam Farrell, A. C. Case, A. F. Caffin, L. Lovejoy, D. E. Runals, T. E. Kilburn, D. B. Edwards, Simeon Foote, D. D. Farrell, William Mitchell, William Ober, Samuel W. Wellman. August 3 a hailstorm about one and one-half miles wide swept through the county, cutting across Bristol, Forestville and Spring Valley, leaving a bleak scene of devastated crops. Benjamin Sherman died October 11, 1875. He was born in Geneva, New York, and was one of the earliest settlers here. November 7 the merchant tailor shop of J. H. Roberts in Chatfield was broken open and robbed of clothes and newly made-up suits to the amount of from $250 to $300.

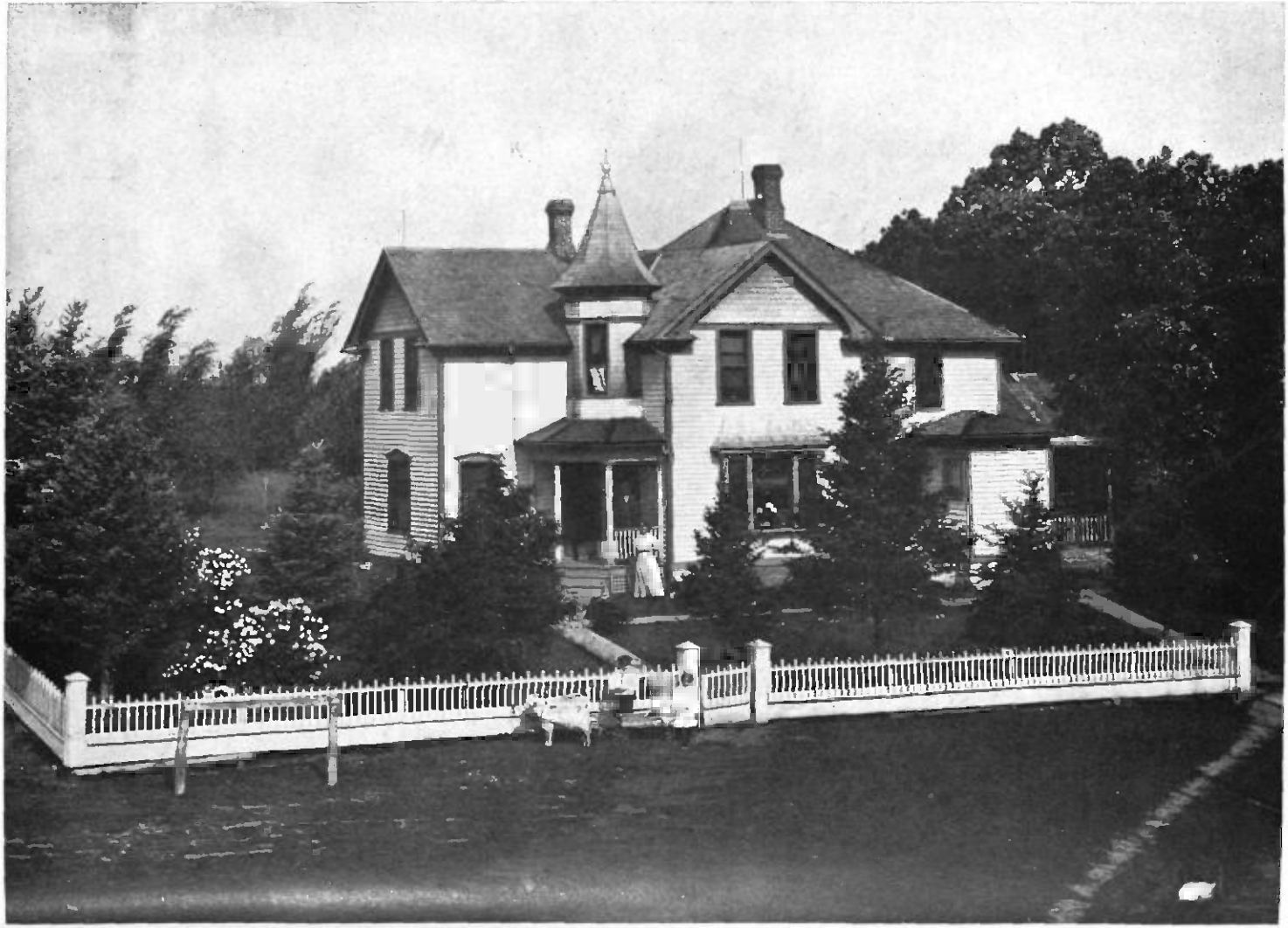
1876. Mrs. Sarah N. Engle, wife of Walter Engle, of Preston, died February 5, at the age of forty years. Early in March there was a great flood, which kept up several days, and large amounts of property were swept away. A few of the losses will be mentioned: Kelly Bros. & Mosher's lumber yard went out, and a cooper shop at White & Bryon's mill followed the prevailing fashion. Peter Hanson's harness shop also joined the procession.

C. L. Colman and John Paul's lumber yards were both considerably damaged. H. A. Billings had a lot of wood that disappeared. The railroad trestle went out. Thompson & Williams' mill was seriously damaged. At Whalan the mill of Williams, Fall & Co. was damaged. At Rushford the new bridge and the long bridge accepted the pressing invitation to move on. The woolen mill also sustained considerable damage. The railroad lost bridges all up and down the river. The new bridge at the west end of the village of Preston went out at about 11 o'clock on Friday, March 8. It moved down the stream under the first bridge and the people made a rush to the next bridge, the iron one, to see how it would receive the shock. When it struck the structure trembled but nobly stood the onslaught, and the enemy himself went to pieces. The headgates of the Conkey flouring mill were carried away and the dam considerably demoralized. The water was up to the window caps of the first story of Wheeler's woolen mill. As the water rose on the flats there was a lively time among the men, women, children, horses, cows, pigs, chickens and rats. The only time remembered like it was in 1859, when the water rose quite as high. At Lanesboro much damage was done, and at Rushford a rushing business was also done, as indeed happened all along the river. George W. Sawyer died March 29, 1876, at the age of forty-two years. He was born in Watertown, New York. He was cashier of the bank in Lanesboro, also insurance and express agent, with a large amount of other business on his hands, which he dispatched with a geniality that made him a general favorite. At Amherst, on the 6th of April, an insane woman, wife of Enger Erickson, murdered her husband by chopping him about the head with an axe as he lay in bed. She was sent to the insane asylum. On August 31 there was an explosion of a boiler used with a threshing machine about five miles from Chatfield, on the farm of Chauncy Jones. Mr. Lawton, the engineer, Charles Arnold, the band cutter, and William Bennett were instantly killed and several others were injured. In May, silver began to take the place of fractional currency. The reintroduction of silver after about fifteen years of banishment was a matter of curiosity, particularly to the rising generation, a majority of whom, eighteen years of age, could not remember ever having seen a silver quarter or a dime. A thunder storm with hail burst upon the village of Lanesboro on May 20. The hail was said to have been unusually large and copious, the ground being actually covered with the icy pellets, and the testimony of those who were present is concurrent that the hail stones varied from the size of a filbert to that of a hen's egg. The damage to vegetation was great, but as there was little wind the glass escaped serious breakage. On May 20, 1876, there was

a freshet which was particularly severe in Pilot Mound, the rain being the heaviest known for years; roads were washed and fences swept away. The railroad bridge spanning Rush creek was also washed away. In May some young salmon were placed in the mill pond at Lanesboro, some of the citizens having made up a purse for this purpose, and B. A. Man went to Red Wing and brought the fish, which were procured of the state fish commissioner. This is believed to be the first deposit of this kind in the waters of Fillmore county. Early in June a military company was formed in Rushford: M. D. Edinger, captain; G. W. Rockwell, first lieutenant, and Joshua Weber, second lieutenant. The centennial anniversary of American independence was celebrated in Fillmore county in several places, but at Lanesboro special preparations were made to have the occasion accord with the inspirations of the day. Rev. Ezra A. Terwilliger died August 21. He was born in Canada, March 9, 1835. He received an education at Pictou and Bellville. He first joined the Niagara Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and about 1869 came to Minnesota, his first charge being in La Crescent, where he remained two years. He then came to Fillmore county, and was in Hamilton, Fillmore, Granger and Lenora, where he died. Mrs. George E. Dexter died August 31, 1876. She came to Preston with other members of the Conkey family when twenty-seven years of age. She was a native of Plattsburg, New York. In February, 1865, she was married to George E. Dexter. August 9 the iron bridge in Lanesboro was finished. The mill of Thompson & Williams at Lanesboro was destroyed by fire on the 29th of September. The loss was $35,000 or $40,000, with an insurance of $27,000. In October the granary of John Souther, together with the stables, three miles northwest of Lanesboro, were destroyed by fire, the work of an incendiary. Mr. Souther lay sick at the time. In Lanesboro on November 7 Ole Knudson, who had been at work in Harmony, was found dead on the banks of the river. A careful inventory of the church property in Fillmore county in this year gave an aggregate of $93,950, divided as follows: Baptist, $2,000; Catholic, $21,100; Congregationalist, $6,800; Episcopal, $1,800; German Reformed, $4,000; Friends, $1,200; Lutheran, $38,750; Methodist, $3,800; Presbyterian, $14,500. This is exclusive of Preston, which had an estimated church valuation of $20,000. Philip Onstine died March 26, 1877, at Lenora, at the ripe age of seventy-three years. Uncle Philip, as he was called, came from Canada to the states in 1812 and located in Pennsylvania, afterward in Ohio, and finally in Minnesota. He was the last of seven brothers.

1877. On the Southern Minnesota railroad, on February 16, Mike Welch, a brakeman, was killed by falling between the cars

at Peterson. In this year M. T. Grattan, of Preston, had his stock farm well supplied and it is still kept up. On April 10 a public meeting of the citizens of the county was held at the Court house in Preston to discuss "the old bond swindle," as it was called in the notice for a meeting. At this meeting the sentiments of the people of the county, as there represented, were expressed in several resolutions insisting that the constitution ought not to be violated, and that the proposition of the Legislature to submit the question to a vote of the people at a special election is "a reckless violence perpetrated upon our constitution," and recommending a vote against the proposition. A proposition was, however, submitted to the people of the State, and an election held on June 24, in relation to the payment of the railroad bonds. The project was defeated by a large majority. Fillmore county voted 178 for the payment and 3,155 against. Some of the towns did not furnish a single vote in the affirmative. An attempt at burglary on June 21 at Fountain was successful. The drug store of Case & Halverson was entered and the safe forced by demolishing the lock with a sledgehammer and punch and $150 taken. On the following night, it is supposed that the same criminal went through the office of White & Beynon, of the Carrolton mills, and breaking the safe lock, secured $75. At the store of Helly & Distad the next visit was made, but here the cash had been taken home and a card left hanging in front of the safe, "She is wide open—go in boys." From pure malice they broke the lock, but of course realized nothing. They were probably two men who had been seen about, one of them purporting to be a safe agent, who would inquire about the safe, and offering to sell or exchange, and the other was a mendicant with green goggles. Dr. John A. Ross, a well known, esteemed and valuable citizen of Preston, died June 20, 1877, of heart disease. He was noted for his kindness and liberality. He was honest, plain-spoken, open-handed and just. His funeral rites were attended by the Masonic and Odd Fellows' fraternities, and Rev. F. S. Drew officiated as chaplain. He had been a great sufferer for two years or so, but finally died suddenly, having been on the street up to within a few hours of the change. At Lenora, in June, a little son of David Reed was fatally poisoned by tasting some strychnine procured for poisoning vermin. Two children of Peter Johnson were drowned in June at Lanesboro, near the upper trestle work. On Wednesday, August 8, a most distressing event occurred at the flouring mill of Dickson & Co. in Chatfield. A young lady, Eva Warriner, while in company with two other young ladies and Fred Wilson, was caught by the hair of her head by a revolving vertical shaft, her scalp completely torn off and her clothing stripped from her body while she was rapidly whirled around and round, her feet



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striking two posts at every revolution, until young Wilson could run down into the basement and have the mill stopped. She received every attention that kindness and medical skill could suggest, but died. In August, Dr. D. F. Powell was bitten by a rattlesnake at the Big Spring, two miles from Lanesboro. On August 11, Major Fifield, a well-known citizen of Preston, was found dead on a road several miles from town, having been dead several days. From appearances he had fallen in a fit while riding along, and getting caught in the spokes of a wheel, his limbs were broken and he was otherwise mangled. He was about eighty years of age, and a bachelor who had accumulated considerable property. At Chatfield, on Thursday, August 16, Rev. S. Jones and wife solemnized the semi-centennial anniversary of their marriage. There was an earthquake in southern Minnesota on November 15, which was felt in Fillmore county. According to most of the observers the motion was north and south and lasted several seconds. Capt. James C. Braden died at San Antonio, Texas, December 9, 1877, of consumption. He had gone south for the benefit of his health, accompanied by his wife and children. His native place was Ohio, and he was forty-two years of age at the time of his death. In 1854 he came to this county. At the breaking out of the war of 1861, he went to the front as adjutant of the Tenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was at one time detailed as assistant provost marshal of the Missouri department. On returning from the field he was elected clerk of the court, and afterward was appointed receiver of the land office at Litchfield, and subsequently register, which position he held at the time of his death. At one time he was the Grand Master of Masons in this state. The winter of 1877 was so mild that the wild geese were deceived and actually passed over the county going north in January. James Crowley died at the age of fifty-five years on December 30, 1877, at Lanesboro. He was one of the pioneers of the county. In the fall of this year a new and exasperating swindle broke out in Fillmore county, and many farmers were cheated before they could be warned. The farmers would receive a visit from a man, well dressed and apparently a gentleman who was in quest of a farm, and wanted to buy out the farmer. The farmer was willing to sell for a certain sum; the man would agree to take it, in case a survey would prove everything all correct, and would offer to advance $5 to pay for the survey, at the same time offering the money. This would convince the farmer that the man's intentions were all right, and he would immediately change the $20 bill which the stranger invariably offered, and keeping $5, give him $15 in money. When he came to use his $20 bill to pay for the survey, he found it to be counterfeit. By this time the stranger had sought new pastures, and appeared

no more on the scene. These swindlers were finally circumvented, by a warning which was issued to farmers, and subsided, but not until after many farmers were duped.

1878. On January 11, about thirty persons met to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Hunt, of Spring Valley. Mrs. Benjamin Dobel, at the age of seventy years, passed away March 19, 1878. She was an English woman, coming to this country in 1830. She was a member of the Congregational Church, of which her husband was a deacon. Gilbert B. O. Barrett was born in Middleton, Vt., on February 19, 1817, and died on June 8, 1878. With his family he located in Iowa while it was a territory, and in 1853 came to Forrestville. In 1866, with part of his family he went to Helena, Mont. In 1871, he moved on to Walla Walla, Washington territory. He had recently returned to this county and died at Carimona. He was a good man and was sincerely mourned. A little son of Charles Johnson, of Lanesboro, lost his leg by the cars on June 8. On Sunday, June 9, Mr. and Mrs. John Hayes were at the Catholic Church in Lanesboro, when Mrs. Hayes was taken suddenly ill, and on being taken to the American House, expired. Mrs. Niles Carpenter, of Rushford, on August 21, was given a teaspoonful of strong solution of strychnine instead of a harmless solution, by a substitution of the wrong bottle, and she expired almost instantly. At Fountain, on October 23, three tramps assaulted, beat and robbed C. H. Ichealson, rifled his pockets of $45 and left him for dead in his saloon, where he was found the next morning. The scoundrels also stole some horses in the neighborhood and then decamped. They were afterward captured. On December 20, White, Nash & Co.'s mill, at Lanesboro, was burned. The property was owned by Allen F. Nash and Seymour Gilbert, Mr. White being interested in operating the mill. The loss was $30,000 with an insurance of $16,000. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Roberts celebrated their silver wedding on December 21 at their residence in Lanesboro. Mrs. W. W. Fife died May 22, 1878. She was the daughter of Simeon Foote. Her name was Ann Eliza, and her birth was in Crawford county, Ohio, on September 14, 1837. She was married in 1859, having with her parents, in 1855, moved from Mount Carroll, Ill., to Chatfield. After her marriage she lived in Preston up to the time of her death. Capt. J. H. McKenny, who was one of the most enterprising men among the early settlers, died in May, 1878, at Chatfield, having arrived at the age of sixty-five years. He was born in Chambersburg, Pa., on October 24, 1813. He learned the printing business in the office of the "Staunton Spectator," and afterward worked in Cincinnati and in Kentucky. In November, 1834, in St. Louis, he was married to Miss Mary E. Duval, who died in July, 1836. About this time he

went to Iowa, and in connection with James Clark, who was afterward governor of the state, got out the first number of the "Iowa Gazette." In 1837, he was married to Mary A. Sleeth. In October, 1842, he was elected sheriff of Des Moines county, Iowa. He was in the Mexican war as a quartermaster and commissary, and soon after the war was detailed with his company to remove the Winnebagoes to their new homes in the northern part of Minnesota. In 1848, he came to Minnesota to accept an appointment by H. M. Rice in the American Fur Company at Crow Wing. In 1849 was appointed sutler at Fort Gaines, now Fort Ripley, which position he resigned in 1851, and returned to Iowa, where he again secured an interest in the "Gazette." He was, however, soon appointed receiver of the land office for southern Minnesota, which was located in Brownsville, in the spring of 1854. In June, 1856, the land office was removed to Chatfield and his home was thus transferred. In 1861, the captain and his brother bought the "Chatfield Democrat." He run for auditor in 1872, on the state Democratic ticket, which was defeated. In 1864, was a candidate for state senator. He was elected justice of the peace and held that position for some time. He was a Mason well up in the degrees and had held office in the grand bodies of that order. He was a large hearted man, devoted to his friends and the village of his adoption. A. J. Young came from Pennsylvania in 1855, and pre-empted the place now owned by John Real. He died very suddenly the last of July, 1878. Ole G. Laughan passed away on October 26, 1878. He was at the head of the drug firm of Laugan & Krogstad, at Lanesboro. Mrs. Sarah Barton lived in the vicinity of Rushford for sixteen years and died November 20, 1878, at the age of seventy-six years.

1879. Rev. Steven Jones died at his home in Chatfield, January 29, 1879, at the age of seventy-two years. He was born in Ohio, January 3, 1807. In 1824 he was married to Isabel Robinson, afterward removed to Indiana, to Wisconsin in 1839, and to Chatfield in 1856. For nearly fifty years he was a minister of the gospel, being connected with the Protestant Methodist denomination. On January 9, the alarm of fire was sounded in the village of Spring Valley, and carried with it dire destruction. The following business houses were burned: C. Evan's grocery and restaurant, loss on building and goods $2,500; Chas. Hermes' shoe store, loss on building and goods $400; John Masterbrook's billiard hall, loss $700; H. S. Porter's harness shop, loss $200. On August 29, M. T. Jones, editor of the "Spring Valley Vidette," was thrown from the buggy while on the way from Wykoff to Spring Valley and killed almost instantly. In December a band of Winnebago Indians were in Lanesboro. They göt up an exhibition under the patronage of Dr. Powell and realized almost $50.

An old lady, Baakle Blerkholtz, was burned to death in February, in a small house in which she lived, in Sumner. She was eighty-two years of age. The house was also consumed. J. B. Frazer, a well known citizen of Preston, died on April 9. He came to Preston in 1856, and pre-empted a place at what was afterward called Frazer's point. He soon removed to the village and went into the hotel business with S. B. Murrell. He afterward kept a grocery and provision store, and finally engaged in general trade. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Cusick was celebrated in Pilot Mound, at their residence, on June 18, 1879. The safe belonging to Holmes, Desmond & Co., of Rushford, was blown open in August and robbed of $55. The wagon factory at Rushford was completely destroyed by fire September 7. The loss was $30,000, with an insurance of but $8,000. Rush Creek, on September 10, swelled beyond its capacity, and dams and bridges were destroyed. In the fall of this year S. H. Dexter published a bird's-eye view of Rushford, which gave a good idea of the village at that time.

1880. On January 18, 1880, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. O. Iverson was celebrated at their residence in Lanesboro. Thomas Raymond died March 4, 1880. He came to Rushford in 1866. On March 12, 1880, a Bee-Keepers' Association for the county was organized at Preston. Among the officers and members were L. M. Trexler, M. V. Facey, E. T. Nelson and John Carnegie. On May 5 a severe hailstorm passed over the eastern part of the town of Preble, leaving a scene of devastation in its track. The damage to the farmers was most depressing. Windows were broken in almost every house, cattle stricken down by the icy pellets, which were reported to be in some specimens two inches in diameter. J. L. Jahr resided in this county for twenty-eight years previous to his death. He had represented his district in the legislature of the state. He died May 28, 1880, at the age of forty-eight years. He resided in Norway township. A rare occurrence was that of a party at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. William Boles, in Fountain, on November 15, 1880, on the occasion of the recurrence of the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding.

1881. Mrs. Harriet E. Butler passed away on October 31, 1881, at the age of sixty-two years. Harriet E. Bean was born on July 7, 1819, in Ohio. On May 12, 1842, was married in Pennsylvania to A. H. Butler, who came with his wife to Preston about the year 1863. He was at one time county treasurer, and died seven or eight years before his wife. A. J. Stevens was born in Needham, Mass., on June 13, 1833. At the age of twenty-one he came to Wisconsin and was connected with the lumber business in La Crosse county. In 1867, came to Rushford, and in

1870, began the manufacture of wagons. He was at one time for four years treasurer of the county, and then returned and organized the Rushford Wagon & Carriage Company, which did a very large business. In September, 1880, the works were burned, entailing a heavy loss. He then went to Winona, and the business men there co-operated with him in building up a wagon company. Mr. Stevens died April 27, 1881, at Winona. George C. Harding, formerly editor of the "Lanesboro Journal," died at Indianapolis, May 7, 1881. At the time of his death he was fifty-one years of age. He commenced his editorial career on the "Prairie Beacon," of Paris, Ill., and was in succession special correspondent of the "Cincinnati Commercial," editor of the "True Delta," New Orleans; editor of the "Telegraph," Houston, Texas, where he was at the commencement of the war. He was editor of the "Coles County (Ill.) Ledger," and either editor or proprietor of the "Evening Journal," "Mirror," "Herald," and the "Review," of Indianapolis. He purchased the "Lanesboro Journal" in March, 1880, and went there in the hope of finding rest. But his active brain required more scope, and after a few months' sojourn in Lanesboro, he returned to Indianapolis, and invested in a new publication, the "Saturday Review," which, under his guidance, was rapidly attaining a front rank with the oldest publications in the state, when he died. On September 17, as Mrs. Edward Lynch, her son Edward, and Mrs. Rotchford, who lived about two miles northwest of Lanesboro, were coming down the road leading around the side of the bluff, one of the horses—a young colt—became frightened at some object in the road, and commenced backing. Edward, perceiving the danger of being cast over the side of the road, jumped from the buggy and endeavored to get the team by the bridles, but before he accomplished his object the horses sprang to one side, and together with the vehicle and two ladies, went rolling down the steep declivity. About two-thirds of the way to the bottom of the hill the horses and front portion of the buggy came in contact with a tree, which brought them to a halt, the hind wheels dashing over stones and shrubs, finally bringing up in the river. In the meantime the two women had been tossed, bruised and torn, and were found at the bottom of the cliff bleeding but not insensible. They were immediately conveyed to David McGannon's house, where medical aid was summoned, the wounds dressed, and the unfortunates made as comfortable as possible. On September 16, 1881, at Spring Valley, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the marriage of Orpheus and Fannie Wallace was held. None were seated at the table but could look back upon at least fifty years, most of them being able to count back and review the incidents of sixty-five and seventy

years ago. Below is given the names and ages of the guests: O. Wallace, 80 years; Mrs. Fannie Wallace, 79 years; Mrs. Eliza Allen, 76 years; Mrs. Eliza Lee, 73 years; Mrs. Theodosia Howe, 80 years; Mrs. Martha Spaulding, 71 years; Mrs. R. C. Brown, 64 years; Mrs. James Pettit, 76 years; Luke Hague, 73 years; Elisha Rose, 70 years; John Kleckler, 57 years; Rev. J. B. Fairbank, 50 years. According to Auditor Hard's books, there were 104 wolves captured in Fillmore county during the month of April, in the year 1881, for which a sum total of $728 was paid as bounty, bounty being $7 for every wolf.

O. W. MOORE

CHAPTER XV.

FILLMORE COUNTY HORTICULTURE

Native Fruits Found by the Early Settlers—The First Nursery—Growth of Horticultural Interest Throughout the County—Conditions at the Present Time—Two Hundred Thousand Apple Trees Soon coming to Fruit—Fillmore County Horticultural Society—Southern Minnesota Horticultural Society—Edited by O. W. Moore.

When the early settlers arrived in Fillmore county the wild plum trees were seen everywhere. The crabapple was also plentiful, and in places could be found the luscious wild strawberry. The wild grapevine was a common sight, and the wild gooseberry abounded in considerable quantity. After the forest trees were cut off and the prairie fires curbed the blackberry and the raspberry came in.

In the way of nuts, the hazel flourished throughout the county, the butternut grew here and there, and in some places the hickory and walnut could be found. In several vicinities there were groves of maple, yielding many pounds of sugar.

But in spite of the lavishness of nature in the way of fruits, nuts and berries, the domestic propagation of these products has been accompanied by many difficulties, and only in recent years has the cultivation of fruit and berries become an important part of Fillmore county's wealth.

In connection with the early nursery business in this county, William Willford has written as follows:

In the spring of 1854 W. J. Howell emigrated from the state of New York to the territory of Minnesota and bought a claim—right to the south half of section 10, township 101, range 9—of James Kelly. Kelly was a "squatter land shark" in southeastern Fillmore county who, in 1853, had claimed a large tract of rich bottom land and the best part of the farming land and timber tracts along the creeks in that locality, which he was dividing up and selling to the newcomers arriving in the territory, charging them fabulous prices for the privilege of settling on a portion of the land he had claimed as his possessions. In May, 1854, Kelly, having sold the remainder of his entire claim holdings to W. J. Howell, removed to another new country, where

he could again continue to do a like business in fleecing the "tenderfoots." After the "land shark" had vacated the log cabin on the claim bought by W. J. Howell (a widower) permission was given another land shark victim of the spring of 1854, named Silas Pennock, to move his family into this house until such time as he had erected a house on his own claim, which adjoined the W. J. Howell claim.

In the fall of 1854 W. J. Howell decided to engage in the business of propagating and growing fruit trees. He prepared the ground for the planting in the spring of 1855, and proposed to his brother, Elihu Howell, who resided in the state of New York, that he come West and go in partnership with him in the nursery business, telling him if he should decide in the affirmative to ship in the early spring of 1855 several thousand root grafts of good standard varieties of fruit. To this his brother acceeded. This, the first nursery started in Fillmore county, was on the east half of the southeast quarter of section 10, town 101, range 9, being about three-fourths of a mile southwest of where Lenora is now located. It was called the "Grafton Nursery." The stock for the planting of this nursery was shipped from New York state to Brownsville, Minn., by Elihu Howell in the first part of May, 1855, and consisted of 53,000 root grafts and 1,500 standard apple trees. Elihu Howell, while on his way to the territory of Minnesota, made the acquaintance at Rockford, Ill., of Lyman G. Stevens, a young man of eighteen summers, who had left the state of New Hampshire for the Western country. He agreed to accompany Elihu Howell to Minnesota and to assist in planting and caring for his nursery stock. On arriving at Brownsville Elihu Howell was taken ill with Asiatic cholera and died, being buried at Brownsville in May, 1855. Lyman G. Stevens accompanied the shipment of nursery stock from Brownsville to the farm of W. J. Howell, on Richland prairie, this county, and assisted in planting the root grafts and trees on bottom land in section 10, town 101, range 9, in May, 1855.

In the spring of 1856, and also in 1858, several thousand more root grafts were planted on upland clay soil as an experiment, in the belief that the temperature in the winter time, which froze the tops of the young trees every winter down to the snow line, would not go as low on the high land as on the bottom land. The first fruit trees planted on the farm of William Willford, the writer, were procured from the Grafton Nursery in the spring of 1859, and were of the following varieties: Red Astrachan, Benoni, Saps of Wine, Strawberry, Perry Russett and Fameuse. The trees were planted on clay soil on a northeast slope of a hill, and this has proven by later experience to be the most ideal situation for an orchard in Fillmore county.

The young trees did quite well after planting and fruited well for a few years, and then died. Lyman G. Stevens remained on the Howell farm, assisting in the planting and caring for the nursery until the early sixties, when the proprietor decided to abandon the business as a "dead failure."

A description of Fillmore county, published in 1858, mentions the Grafton Nursery as having twenty thousand grafted apple trees. The same pamphlet also mentions the nursery of Doyle & Underwood and that of Sauer & Brothers, the former called the Minnesota Nursery and the latter the Fillmore Nursery. Of these nurseries the publication of 1858 says:

"The Minnesota Nursery is on section 30, township 102, range 9, near the village of Henry. The location is a good one and the grounds neatly kept. The nursery has about twenty thousand grafts of 1856, which are thrifty and of the most approved varieties of apples; also fifty thousand one year old seedlings; and a choice assortment of pears, cherries, currants and the like.

"The Fillmore Nursery is in the Root river valley, about a mile southeast of Chatfield. It is well arranged and contains a great variety of fruit trees, ornamental shrubbery, currants, gooseberries, strawberries and the like. It contains over one hundred thousand grafted trees, all grown here from the seed, and that can hardly fail to thrive."

A nursery was started by Barnett Taylor at Forestville in 1856. He disposed of some small fruit plants as early as the year 1858, and began selling apple and crab trees in the early sixties. Another nursery in the county was started by C. R. Morgan at Forestville in 1882, later taking over the Taylor business. This nursery was carried on for many years and supplied fruit trees and small fruit plants to the farmers of the county. This nursery was discontinued some years ago.

The most extensive nursery undertaking in the county was started by C. E. Snyder in the year 1891. Mr. Snyder has been instrumental in furnishing fruit trees for many orchards throughout the country, both large and small, his orders ranging from two or three trees up to three thousand to an individual planter. He carries a full line of all the fruits that can be grown in this county and has been very successful.

G. A. B. Howell planted a nursery in Spring Valley in 1901. While this nursery is not so large as some others, it is well organized as to apportionment of varieties, especial care being taken that everything sent out shall be true to name.

O. W. Moore, a leading Fillmore county horticulturist has

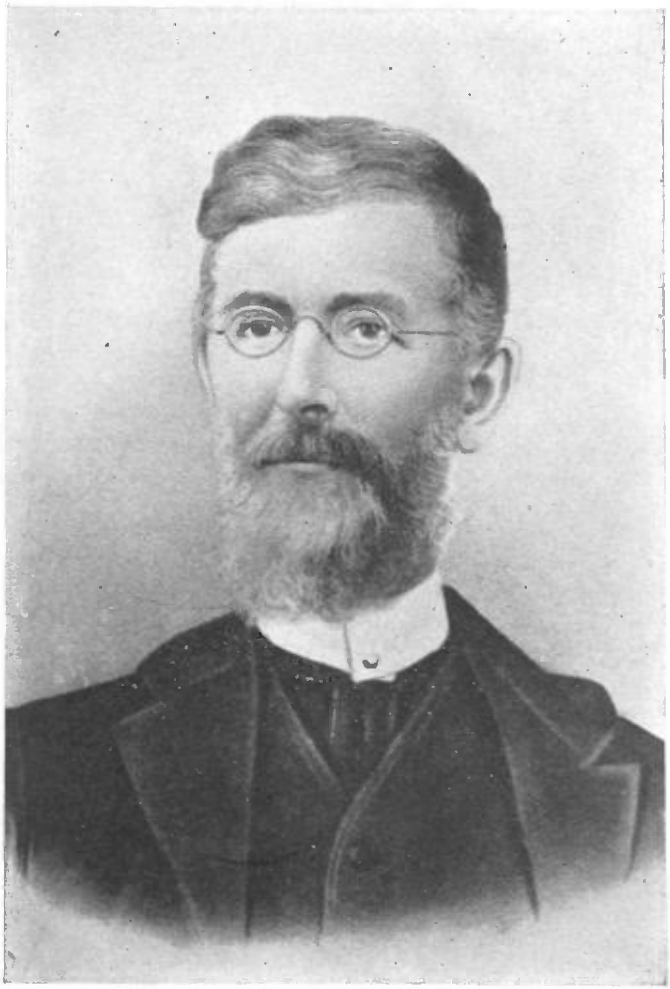
prepared a story of the growth of the industry in this county as follows:

The early settlers and pioneer fruit growers of the county were largely Eastern people and knew nothing of the varieties best adapated to the climate of this Northwest country. But they knew the varieties that were grown in their Eastern homes, and naturally would have a desire to try them here. And such varieties as the Baldwin, Rhode Island Greening, Northern Spy and others were tried. But the planters soon found that these varieties were of no practical value in this climate. The next to be tried were a few Russian varieties, which were thoroughly tested and tried. The Dutchess has been of more practical value as a cooking or kitchen apple than any other variety that has thus far been grown in the Northwest. It is good to cook when half grown and satisfies a desire for apple fruit when there is no other apple to take its place. It is hardy and an annual and prolific bearer and should have a place in every orchard, more or less, according to the wishes of the planter. The writer knows of a few Dutchess trees that have been bearing fruit for thirty-seven years and are still "doing business at the old stand."

It became a settled policy of our early pioneer fruit growers and plant breeders that if we ever obtained varieties of good size, quality and color, prolific bearing, good keepers and hardy enough to withstand weather conditions of this country; these varieties of apples must be produced from seed planted in our county or state. Peter Gideon worked along this line and gave us the Wealthy, which is now growing in most of the states of our Union, and has nearly reached around the world. The number of Wealthy apple trees planted in the county at this writing is somewhere about 35 per cent of the whole number planted, Dutchess 15 per cent, Greening 15 per cent, Northwestern Greening 10 per cent, Peerless, Longfield, Malinda, Walbridge, McMahon 2 per cent each. Twenty-five per cent is made up of other varieties and crabs.

The whole number of apple trees now growing in the county, as near as can be estimated, is some two hundred and twenty-five thousand trees. The plant breeders of Minnesota and adjoining states, of late years, have brought out nothing in the apple line that excells the Wealthy in a commercial way. But we have many new seedlings of great promise, especially the Perkins group of seedlings brought out by T. E. Perkins, of Red Wing, Minn., of over one hundred varieties of seedlings, a few of which are going to be heard from before very long. One of them, "No. 72," scored 95 points at the Minnesota State Horticultural meeting in December, 1911.

The Windsor Chief, the Delicious, the Milwaukee, the Evelyn,



BARNETT TAYLOR

the Prosser Seedling and the Northwestern Greening, all good sized and good keeping apples, and the most of them excellent in quality, are being "top worked" more or less in the county and the southern half of the state. The writer has advocated and practiced "top working" now for a good many years, and the fruit growers of the Northwest are just beginning to realize the advantages of "top working," or grafting good varieties on vigorous, hardy stocks, such as the Hibernal or Virginia crab. It has been well proven that the life of our apple trees can be doubled by this "top working" process.

The Plum. The facts in regard to the past and present of the plum industry in the county do not show as much progress as could be wished. The only plums within the county in the early days of its settlement were the wild plums or the Prunus Americana. The fruit growers and plant breeders within the county have tried to improve on those varieties of wild plums by planting the pits of the best and bringing those seedlings into bearing, and then planting the pits of the best of those, and then repeating the process. Those methods have been tried out until there seems to be no further room for improvement, or in other words, the limit has been reached along this line. This being true, wherein lies the future improvement of our plums? The writer asserts that the only way out of this dilemma, or the only bridge by which this difficulty can be crossed, is to cross-fertilize our wild or domesticated plums with the Japan varieties of plums. The writer owns a hybrid plum of this variety. It is equal in size to any California plum that meets our northwestern market at the present time, and is superior in quality, a longer keeper when picked and has a smaller pit. The writer has about three hundred of the pits of this plum planted and intends to grow them this coming season of 1912 and bring them to bearing age with the hope of getting something superior to the mother hybrid plum described above.

Strawberries. From the early settlement of the county up to the present time the strawberry has not been grown throughout the county as much as it should have been. Every farmer and town lot owner should grow strawberries for their own use. Early in the season there are hundreds of cases shipped into the county to supply the small towns. But this is before the home grown berries are ripe, so the home growers are not to be blamed. But in the ripening season of the home grown berries, as a rule, there is not half enough of the local berries to supply the demand of the towns within the county. As to varieties to plant the Warfield is a good berry, but is a pistalate variety or non-fertilizer, and in order to be fertilized must be planted with some stamanate variety, such as the Bederwood. The most popu-

lar and all around strawberry is the Senator Dunlap. It is a stamanate or self fertilizer, a vigorous grower of healthy plants, a great plant maker and a prolific bearer of large and most excellent fruit. But the latest fad in strawberries is the everbearing strawberry. The writer proposes to start in with this variety this coming spring of 1912 and give them a thorough try-out.

Raspberries, gooseberries, currants and grapes are grown throughout the county. But as a rule not for market, but more for family or home use. These smaller fruits fill a place for coming purposes that help to supply the family with fruit through the winter and spring when fresh fruit conditions are not with the grower.

The writer is no prophet but he predicts that the time is soon coming when Fillmore county will be rated as the banner fruit growing county in the state of Minnesota. In 1907 there were shipped out of the county seventy-eight car loads of apples, and in 1911 there were shipped out sixty-five car loads. There were more apples grown in 1911 than there were in 1907, but the reason why there were not as many car loads shipped out in 1911 was that we had no buyers out of the state looking for apples as formerly. With our rolling land and high ridges we have an ideal apple county, and there is no reason why we cannot lead any and all other counties of the state in fruit growing when over two hundred thousand apple trees, which are now planted in the county, become of bearing age.

No history of the horticulture of the county would be complete without mention of the two horticultural societies which have met within its borders and largely contributed to the development of the taste for fruits and flowers and the joys of outdoor life.

The Southern Minnesota Horticultural Society. The preliminary meeting for the purpose of organizing a southern Minnesota society was held in Albert Lea in October, 1893, when a program committee was appointed and F. W. Kimball, of Austin, was made president and Clarence Wedge, of Albert Lea, secretary. The first annual meeting of the society was held in Austin December 13 and 14 following, and a membership of about thirty secured. Since that time this society has held regular annual meetings in December or January and has grown to a membership of nearly a hundred persons. The meetings have usually been held in Austin and Albert Lea, but several meetings have been held in Spring Valley and one in Owatonna. The society has been carried on as an auxiliary of the state society, its members being entitled to all the privileges and publications of the state society, of which it has been by far the leading local auxiliary. The pro-

grams of the meetings and a large share of the papers read at its sessions may be found in the periodicals published by the state society. The following officers have been chosen from Freeborn county: President: A. W. Massee, 1905 to 1907, inclusive; L. P. H. Highby, 1908; C. M. Peterson, 1909 to 1911, inclusive. Vice President: Geo. H. Prescott, 1893 to 1894, inclusive; Jonathan Freeman, 1895 to 1901, inclusive; Mrs. C. E. Brainerd, 1902; P. Clausen, 1905 to 1908, inclusive. Secretary: Clarence Wedge, 1893 to 1897, inclusive; Mrs. C. E. Brainerd, 1900 to 1901, inclusive; Jonathan Freeman, 1902; L. P. H. Highby, 1903 to 1905, inclusive; C. M. Peterson, 1906 to 1908, inclusive. Treasurer: Chris Berthelsen, 1909 to 1911, inclusive.

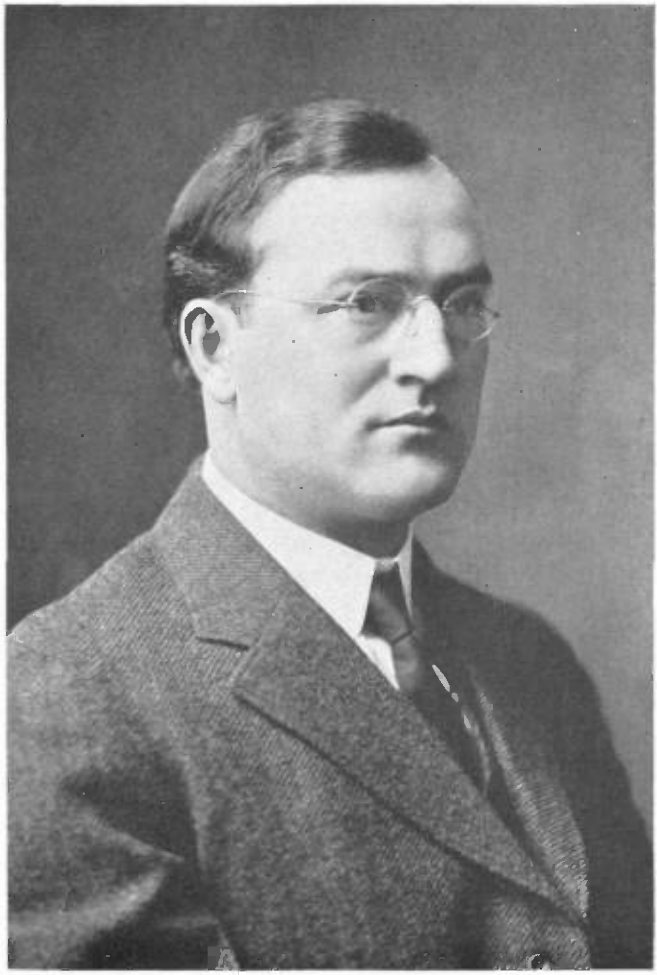
The Fillmore County Horticultural Society was organized December 19, 1895, at a meeting held in the office of Asa Burleson, in Spring Valley. D. K. Michener called the meeting to order and was elected temporary chairman. R. Parkhill was elected temporary secretary. An organization committee was appointed with J. B. Greenlee, R. C. Livingston and C. L. Woolridge as members, and a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws was also appointed with R. Parkhill, P. Fremer, J. B. Greenlee and J. Marshall as members. Addresses were delivered by O. F. Brand and C. G. Patten. The next day the prospective members again assembled with J. Marshall in the chair. Addresses were delivered in the morning by C. F. Gardner, C. G. Patten, O. F. Brand and R. C. Livingstone. In the afternoon an address was delivered by W. Somerville. Officers of the society were elected as follows: President, D. K. Michener; secretary, R. Parkhill; treasurer, S. F. Leonard; executive committee, the three officers just named and B. Taylor and H. P. Moon; vice presidents, O. W. Moore, Spring Valley; J. Marshall, Jordan; G. Sheppard, Fillmore; H. Moon, Sumner; B. Taylor, Forestville; T. Tousley, Amherst; L. Hill, Chatfield; R. Graham, Bloomfield; A. Seelye, Canton.

A meeting was held at Spring Valley February 20, 1896, and addresses were delivered by J. Marshall, C. P. Gardner and R. C. Livingston. June 23, 1896, a meeting was held at Preston, with O. W. Moore in the chair. Addresses were delivered by E. S. Leonard and others. It was voted to place an exhibit on view at the county fair, and also to hold a meeting of the association at the fair grounds during fair time.

The annual meeting of 1896 was held at Spring Valley. Officers were elected as follows: President, J. Q. Farmer; vice presidents, O. W. Moore, Spring Valley; J. Mansfield, Jordan; L. M. Prosser, Fillmore; Oscar Hood, Sumner; C. Morgan, Forestville; L. Hill, Chatfield; A. Seelye, Canton; H. C. Ellergodt, Pilot Mound; secretary, R. Parkhill; treasurer, S. F. Leonard.

Addresses were delivered by H. P. Moon, C. F. Gardner, Clarence Wedge, C. G. Patten and J. Marshall. Various others also gave talks and there was an interesting program of songs and readings.

January 13, 1898, a joint meeting was held at Austin with the Southern Minnesota Horticultural Society, and it was decided at that time to merge the county association with the larger one.



DR. A. D. BECKER

CHAPTER XVI

OSTEOPATHY.

Osteopathy as a System or Therapeutics—Andrew Taylor Still the Founder—Importance of the Profession at the Present Time—The First Osteopath in Minnesota—The Present Practitioners in Fillmore County—By A. D. Becker, D. O.

In writing the local history of a comparatively new science it might be well to give the reader a brief exposition of what osteopathy is, who its founder was and a word as to the scope of its application. A short but fairly comprehensive definition and description follow:

Osteopathy is a system of therapeutics that depends for its results upon the mechanical adjustment of the various tissues of the body by a series of leverages or manipulations constituting what is known as an osteopathic treatment. Osteopathy bases its treatment of disease on the well recognized physiological facts, that the function and well being of every tissue and organ of the body is dependent upon its blood and nerve supply, and that nature has provided all the vital forces and chemicals necessary for the maintenance of health and the repair of diseased conditions. Health is natural, disease is unnatural. Disease, or abnormal functioning, is caused by an interference with the blood supply or blood drainage of the part diseased, or by an interference with the normal and proper nerve impulses to that part, or both. Osteopathy has discovered that such interference is mechanical, due to contracted or tightened muscles or ligaments, or to the abnormal relations of the bones, the frame work upon which the softer tissues of the body depend for support and protection; such interference constituting what is known as an "osteopathic lesion." Owing to the fact that most of the nerves of the body come from the spine, and that the control of the blood supply to the various organs of the body is largely, if not wholly, through the nerves, osteopathic treatments are mainly given to the spine. It then becomes the duty of the osteopathic physician, to discover the lesions in any particular case and to adjust such lesions to their normal anatomical relation, depending upon the fact that when structure has been made normal, the functioning or action of the parts will return to the normal. The osteopath, in treating a patient, only seeks to

liberate the natural vital forces and chemicals; thereby assisting nature, along natural paths to restore to normal balance and function any parts which may be subject to disease.

In the early days of osteopathy cures were made chiefly in chronic diseases, as people did not have sufficient confidence in the new system to allow the osteopath to handle acute illnesses. But this is rapidly changing and osteopaths are treating more acute cases every year. Osteopathy built up its present standing by curing the incurable cases of old lines of treatment and stands today a complete system of practice, treating successfully both acute and chronic diseases. "Osteopathy then deals with the body as an intricate machine which, if kept in proper adjustment, nourished and cared for, will run smoothly into ripe and useful old age."

Osteopathy was discovered by Dr. Andrew Taylor Still. Dr. Still was a medical practitioner for many years, serving as surgeon in the Union army during the Civil War. Being a man with an analytical mind and gifted with that rare faculty, the ability to think along original lines, Dr. Still was not satisfied to allow the many failures of his own practice and those of his colleagues to go unexplained, but worked incessantly and studied deeply into the anatomy and physiology of the human body, to determine if there was not some better and more effective way to relieve suffering humanity of its pains and infirmities. In 1874 he announced to his patients at Baldwin, Kans., that he had done with drugs forever, and that he had evolved a system of drugless healing. For eighteen years the struggle was hard and bitter. He was ridiculed, maligned and scoffed at, and met opposition of the most determined sort. Deserted by relatives as well as friends, he moved with his family to Kirksville, Mo., which place was to become the theater of his greatest achievements.

In 1892 he started a school at Kirksville for the purpose of teaching the new science to others. This school, known as the American School of Osteopathy, was the first school of the new system, and with a humble beginning and its dozen or so scholars, has grown to be a large college in the twenty years of its existence, having nearly 800 students in attendance and over three thousand graduates. There are now several colleges of osteopathy located in various parts of this country, all of which maintain a high standard of requirements, and belong to the Associated Colleges of Osteopathy.

There are over five thousand osteopaths, practicing in every state of the Union, in Canada, Mexico and in the leading countries of Europe, Asia and South America. No system of therapy ever gained public recognition and adoption so speedily or fully. Within fifteen years over forty states of the Union have enacted

laws placing the osteopathic physician on substantially the same legal plane as the old school practitioners, while court decisions in the remaining states have completed the legalization. There is an American Osteopathic Association with over three thousand active members, holding annual meetings in various of the larger cities of the country. Among the many activities of this association is the financing and establishment of an institute for research work to be located in Chicago and to be known as the A. T. Still Research Institute. There are state associations in every state with subsidiary district, county and city societies.

The first osteopath in Minnesota was Dr. Chas. E. Still, a son of Dr. A. T. Still, who first located in Minneapolis in 1893 and afterwards practiced in Red Wing and St. Paul. There are now about one hundred and twenty-five osteopaths in Minnesota, and this number is being constantly augmented. The law regulating the practice of osteopathy in Minnesota was passed in the early spring of 1903 and became effective in April of the same year.

The history of osteopathy in Fillmore county is necessarily brief. There are two osteopaths in the county.

To the above excellent article on osteopathy the editors of this work have added the following biographies:

Dr. L. V. Read located in Spring Valley in 1909, having previously practiced in Winona. Dr. Read graduated from the Northern Institute of Osteopathy and located in Minneapolis (since bought by the American School of Osteopathy and discontinued) in 1904. Since locating in Spring Valley Dr. Read has built up a thriving and constantly growing practice and enjoys the confidence and support of his fellow citizens.

Dr. A. D. Becker located in Preston in February, 1903, after graduating from the S. S. Still College of Osteopathy, located at Des Moines, Ia. In September, 1908, he went to Kirksville, Mo., for several months' post graduate work, returning to Preston in April, 1909, and practicing until September of the same year, when he turned his practice over to Dr. S. H. Stover for two years, during which time he occupied a chair on the faculty of the American School of Osteopathy and was also a member of the hospital staff. Returning to Preston September 1, 1911, he resumed his practice. Dr. Becker is a member of the American Osteopathic Association and of the Minnesota State Osteopathic association, serving as its president from October, 1911, to October, 1912. That the doctor has been successful in his chosen profession is well attested by his increasing practice, patients coming from South Dakota, Wisconsin and Iowa to seek his professional services. He is earnest and conscientious in his work and enjoys to a marked degree the confidence of his patients and friends.

CHAPTER XVII.

PRESTON CITY AND TOWNSHIP

Preston City—Location and Advantages—First Settlement—Early Residents—Early Business—Preston in 1858—Municipal History—Electric Light and Waterworks—City Hall and Library—Preston Township Past and Present.

Preston is a busy village in the geographical center of the county, and is honored with the distinction of being the county seat. It was first settled in 1853, platted in 1855 and incorporated in 1871. It is 109 miles from Minneapolis and has communication with the outside world through two railroad branches, one extending to Reno and the other to Isinours. The south branch of the Root river, on which the village is located, furnishes limited water power, which has still greater possibilities. Preston has numerous stores and the usual complement of professional and business activities. It has two banks, two weekly newspapers, two hotels, two theaters, a broom factory, a bottling plant, a lumber yard, a machine shop and gasoline engine factory, a brick yard, a garage, three elevators, a creamery, a brewery, several liveries and dray lines, a graded and state high school, six churches, a fine court house and jail, a Carnegie library and city hall combined, many miles of pavement, a fine waterworks system and an electric light plant.

The village is built about the court house square, which is well kept, and in the summer the place, with its distant rolling hills, presents a beautiful appearance.

Preston was named by John Kaercher in honor of his millwright, Luther Preston, who was also the first postmaster of the village.

FIRST SETTLEMENT.

The first settlement of Preston village dates back to 1853, when John Vail, from Pennsylvania, located on the south fork of the Root river and erected a log cabin on its south bank, on the exact site of the present power plant of the village of Preston.

In the meantime there had been transpiring in Iowa events which had an important influence on the future of Fillmore county. Mrs. Barbara Kaercher Schweitzer, then separated from her husband, was living in Winnishiek county, Iowa, where, as the

HENRY NUPSON

result of profitable investments, she owned eight hundred acres of rich land, favorably located. With her were her grown sons, Theobold and Louis; a young son, Jacob; and two daughters, Barbara and Margaret.

In the same vicinity, and a member of the same colony, was living John Kaercher and his family. John Kaercher was a brother of Mrs. Barbara Kaercher Schweitzer. He, like his sister, had made considerable money by wise land investments.

Michael Anstett, with his wife and two sons, Michael and John, were living in the same neighborhood, Mr. Anstett working for John Kaercher.

Berry Olson was likewise there, he being employed by Mrs. Schweitzer.

To these people William Vail, a brother of the solitary pioneer then living on the future site of Preston, made the proposition that they come to this locality and start a village. He pictured the country and the future of the county in glowing terms and assured them that were they to locate in this vicinity with the capital they would secure by the sale of their Iowa property and establish a sawmill and gristmill, they could easily secure the county seat.

Accordingly, in the winter of 1854, John Kaercher, Theobold Schweitzer, Michael Anstett and Berry Olson came to this locality, and looked about for a suitable location for a village and a mill.

In relation to this visit a former history of the county has said: "John Kaercher and Theobald Schweitzer visited Carimona, which had an embryotic village with a sawmill which had been erected by the three Pickett brothers. It was at once decided that this was a very desirable piece of property to have, although there was not a superlative abundance of first-class lumber to keep it in operation. However, Kaercher and Schweitzer opened negotiations with a view of purchasing the property if it could be obtained at a satisfactory figure. Two of the brothers were consulted, and they agreed that $1,400 would be a fair valuation. When, however, the third Pickett arrived upon the scene, he affected the most supreme indifference about selling and placed his figures at $1,600, and to this unexpected raise the young prospectors expressed their surprise. The two young men thus seeking their fortunes were attired in overalls, and shirts made of bed ticking, which would not create the impression that they had several thousand dollars in ready cash. The conversation finally became animated with spicy remarks on both sides, and finally they were told that Carimona could get along very well without any striped Dutchmen. Of course this abruptly closed negotiations in that quarter. It must not be forgotten that this was then a new country, that straggling bands of Indians still

roamed about their native wilds, and that the fleet-footed antelopes still held possession of the choice pastures that now, for a quarter of a century, have yielded a wealth of golden harvest to those who have followed these pioneer footsteps."

Michael Anstett, who was one of the party, does not relate the incident of the negotiations at Carimona.

After looking about for a few days, the party selected the present site of Preston as the field of their future endeavors and concluded the negotiations with John Vail.

The location was a most desirable one. The river afforded opportunities for a dam, there was a good place for mill sites, there was plenty of room for residences, the soil in the neighborhood was well adapted to agriculture, timber and stone were available, and the water supply was excellent for domestic purposes, a fine spring being situated near the cabin.

In April, 1855, their Iowa interests having been disposed of, the little colony came here and moved into Vail's cabin. The party consisted of Mrs. Barbara Kaercher Schweitzer, her two sons, Theobold and Jacob; John Kaercher, his wife and two daughters; Michael Anstett, his wife and two sons, Michael and John; and Berry Olson.

At that time there were several families living on farms in the vicinity of what is now the village.

When the Kaercher colony arrived there began a season of busy activity for the people of this vicinity. Work was commenced on cabins and on the mill. The stone mill, which with additions is still standing, was started, and Luther Preston, the millwright, moved into it with his family. A sawmill was also erected a short distance down the river and was soon in operation. This mill was of wood and is no longer in existence.

John Kaercher needed many men to work on his mills, and millwrights, carpenters and common workmen, as well as farmers, began to settle in or near the new village.

The Vail cabin was much too small for the use of the families that were crowded into it, and soon after his arrival here John Kaercher started the erection of a house, which occupied the present site of the Popple & Cummings foundry.

The next house to be erected was that of Michael Anstett, on the present site of the office of the Colman Lumber Company.

Early Residents. Among those who lived in or near Preston in the days of the earliest settlement were the following: Richard Hahn, Christ Hahn, John McLean, James Connell, Christ Brill, Aaron Knight, William Sawyer, John Merrick, David Carr, James Kinman, John Hurlbut, Jasper Kent, Nicholas Ream, John Borden, Elias Lint, W. W. Fife, Samuel M. Shook, C. Peterson, M. C. Shook, William Lipe, Thomas Quinn, A. H. Butler, S. B.

Murrel, James Crowley, Simon Stilson, Jarvis Billings, Aleck White, Franklin Coleman, Amos P. Day, Ed. McGowan, S. O. Thayer, "Tailer" Taylor and David Smith, Jonas Conkey, Myron Billings, Henry Billings, Stephen Carpenter.

Early Business. The year 1855 was a busy one in Preston. Aside from the work on the mills and on various residences, two hotels, a photograph gallery and a store were erected, and a blacksmith shop was in full operation.

The Preston Hotel, which was the first hotel in the village, was erected in 1855, and was opened in the spring with Menno Ebby as the proprietor. The hotel occupied the present site of the Farmers' Home, on St. Paul street.

The New England House was erected later in the same year by James P. Tibbetts, being opened with D. W. Morrell as proprietor. Mr. Tibbetts also opened a photograph gallery in the same building. The site is now occupied by the store of George Moore.

The first store was opened in February of 1855, by Theobold Schweitzer, but was closed out a few years later.

A blacksmith shop was operated by C. Rappe, beginning with July, 1855. He bought out an earlier blacksmith. This earlier blacksmith, who is said to have established his forge here shortly after the arrival of Vail, was a Scotchman, but there seems to be an uncertainty as to his name, although he is said to have been William Douglass. It is also said to have been Dougherty. The site of the forge was just south of where the old Minnesota Hotel is located.

The postoffice was opened this year.

1856. In the spring of 1856 Harvey Egbert opened a store on the corner now occupied by the M. M. Blunt hardware store.

J. B. Fraser came the same year and opened a store north of the court house, about where the Read Brothers store is now located.

In the same year T. G. Eames opened a store on the corner now occupied by the Weiser Block. He soon afterward went to Texas.

The brick yard was opened this year by Henry Webb.

The first school was opened this spring in a little shanty near the river on Main street.

The county seat was located here this year.

1857. The first drug store was opened in 1857 by Dr. John Krees, who was succeeded later by James P. Tibbetts.

Two important hotels were erected this year.

The Minnesota House, which is now standing, was erected by Joseph Ober, who conducted it for many years. It is now used as a residence.

The Stanwix Hotel, now known as the Tibbetts House, was built by John Kaercher.

1858. In 1858, Thomas Hall, who arrived in 1856, opened a store and saloon in the building erected by Joseph Summers, on the corner now owned by the Preston Realty and Investment Company. Tom Hall's place was an historic spot, and many were the heated discussions held here during war times.

The woolen mill, the building of which started in 1857, was opened this year by Wayback & Schweitzer.

I. and D. O'Brien also opened a hardware store, corner of River and St. Anthony streets.

Preston in 1858. A booklet issued just after the state was admitted contains the following picture of Preston at that time. "No court house has as yet been erected, but a convenient building of brick is completed for the register of deeds' office. The river, which runs directly through the town, affords, within a distance of less than a mile, three excellent water powers, two of which are already improved—the lower one by Theobold Schweitzer and the next above by John Kaercher. The former gentleman has just completed, at a cost of $8,000, a woolen factory and furniture shop. The building, which is of stone, is 35 by 45 feet in area, and three stories high. The grist mill erected by John Kaercher, in 1855, was the first built in the county. It is of stone, 30 by 40 feet in area, and four stories high, capable of flouring five hundred bushels of wheat in twenty-four hours. The grist mill, saw mill and dam were completed at a cost of over $15,000. The Stanwix Hotel is a building 36 by 50 feet, four stories high and well furnished. It is kept by Theobold Schweitzer. The Minnesota House, kept by J. Ober, is a fine building of brick and receives a good patronage. An excellent quarry of building stone is found adjoining the village. The brick yard, worked by Henry Webb, has turned out over 600,000 brick, and a number of dwellings in the village are built of that material. The citizens have unanimously voted a tax of $2,500 for the erection of a school house, 28 by 50 feet, two stories high, to be built of brick. It will be completed during the present summer. The village at present comprises about forty houses, and the population is estimated at 300." The advertisements which accompany this description are: Preston Mills, grist mill and saw mill, John Kaercher, Stanwix Hotel. N. P. Colburn, attorney. Woolen mill and furniture shop, T. Schweitzer. I. and D. O'Brien, hardware and the like, corner of River and St. Anthony streets. Preston Brick Yard, Henry Webb.

Municipal History. Preston was incorporated by the state legislature, approved March 4, 1871. The first village council met May 15, 1871. The charter provided that the citizens of the

village should remain citizens of the township, and this connection between the city and township continued until the present year, when they were separated. The principal officers of the village have been as follows:

1871—Mayor, Reuben Wells; councilmen, J. O'Brien, H. R. Wells, H. A. Billings, William Carpenter, D. C. Kerr; treasurer, D. B. Colman; justice, Reuben Wells; overseer, A. Kalder; marshal, A. Kalder; recorder, J. B. Viall; attorney, N. P. Colburn.

1872—Mayor, Reuben Wells; councilmen, J. O'Brien, H. R. Wells, H. A. Billings, William Carpenter, D. C. Kerr; treasurer, D. B. Colman; justice, R. Wells; overseer, D. C. Kerr; marshal, S. A. Bennett; recorder, J. M. Kramer; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1873—Mayor, Reuben Wells; councilmen, C. H. Conkey, A. Howell, W. D. Lipe, B. S. Loomis, J. J. Merrill; treasurer, W. W. Fife; justice, R. Wells; overseer, T. Vickerman; marshal, C. M. Foote; recorder, G. W. Hard; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1874—Mayor, J. J. Merrill; councilmen, A. Howell; W. D. Lipe, C. A. Wheeler, T. Vickerman, M. F. Thieme; treasurer, W. W. Fife; justice, R. Wells; overseer, M. Newman; recorder, G. W. Hard; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1875—Mayor, H. A. Billings; councilmen, C. Rappe, H. Neuman, A. Weiser, C. A. Wheeler, H. R. Wells; treasurer, W. W. Fife; justice, R. Wells; overseer, C. W. Mann; recorder, G. W. Hard; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1876—Mayor, C. H. Conkey; councilmen, J. O'Brien, W. D. Lipe, W. W. Braden, D. H. Priest, H. R. Wells; treasurer, W. W. Fife; justice, R. Wells; overseer, T. Vickerman; recorder, G. W. Hard; attorney, N. P. Colburn.

1877—Mayor, C. H. Conkey; councilmen, W. W. Braden, H. R. Wells, Thomas Quinn, E. Lint, C. A. Wheeler; treasurer, W. W. Fife; justice, R. Wells; overseer, S. F. Stilson; recorder, E. W. Stevens.

1878—Mayor, C. H. Conkey; councilmen, H. R. Wells, L. O. Hamre, W. W. Ford; H. Neuman, J. A. Kramer; treasurer, Chas. Webb; justice, R. Wells; overseer, C. W. Mann; recorder, F. M. Jewitt.

1879—Mayor, H. R. Wells; councilmen, L. O. Hamre, W. W. Ford, A. Weiser, H. Neuman, J. M. Kramer; treasurer, Chas. Webb; justice, R. Wells; overseer, C. W. Mann; marshal, S. E. Ford; recorder, F. M. Jewitt.

1880—Mayor, H. R. Wells; councilmen, J. P. Tibbetts, H. Neuman, W. W. Ford, P. Linxweiler, Peter Nelson; treasurer, Chas. Webb; justice, E. Lint; overseer, Albert Ibach; marshall, R. C. Joseph; recorder, M. C. Ford.

1881—Mayor, H. R. Wells; councilmen, J. P. Tibbetts, H. Neuman, A. Schoenbaum, Peter Nelson, J. M. Kramer; treasurer,

G. W. Hard; justice, E. Lint; overseer, Thomas Levy; marshal, John Garietz; recorder, P. Linxweiler.

1882—Mayor, G. W. Hard; councilmen, Henry Newman, J. P. Tibbetts, Ole Nelson, W. E. Bigelow, J. O'Brien; treasurer, A. H. Kramer; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Seeley; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, F. E. Bennett.

1883—Mayor, G. W. Hard; councilmen, C. Peterson, W. W. Ford, M. F. Thieme, Henry Newman, J. C. Benedict; treasurer, A. H. Kramer; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Luhman; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, F. E. Bennett; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1884—Mayor, M. T. Grattan; councilmen, F. E. Bennett, W. W. Ford, H. Neuman, C. Peterson, L. O. Hamre; treasurer, A. H. Kramer; justice, E. Lint; overseer, C. Kathan; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, O. H. Jacobson; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1885—Mayor, Philip Brady; councilmen, A. Weiser, C. Peterson, F. E. Bennett, W. K. Read, G. Renner; treasurer, A. H. Kramer; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Luhman; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, O. H. Jacobson; attorney, H. R. Wells.

1886—Mayor, H. R. Wells; councilmen, A. Weiser, F. Read; C. Kuethe, H. Rose, W. W. Foote; treasurer, H. S. Popple; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Luhman; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, O. H. Jacobson.

1887—Mayor, A. D. Gray; councilmen, J. H. Phillips, A. L. Bennett, F. F. Fraser, H. C. Gullickson, F. A. Burton; treasurer, C. E. McKinlay; justice, E. Lint; overseer, Fred Wick; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, G. F. Mann; attorney, R. E. Thompson.

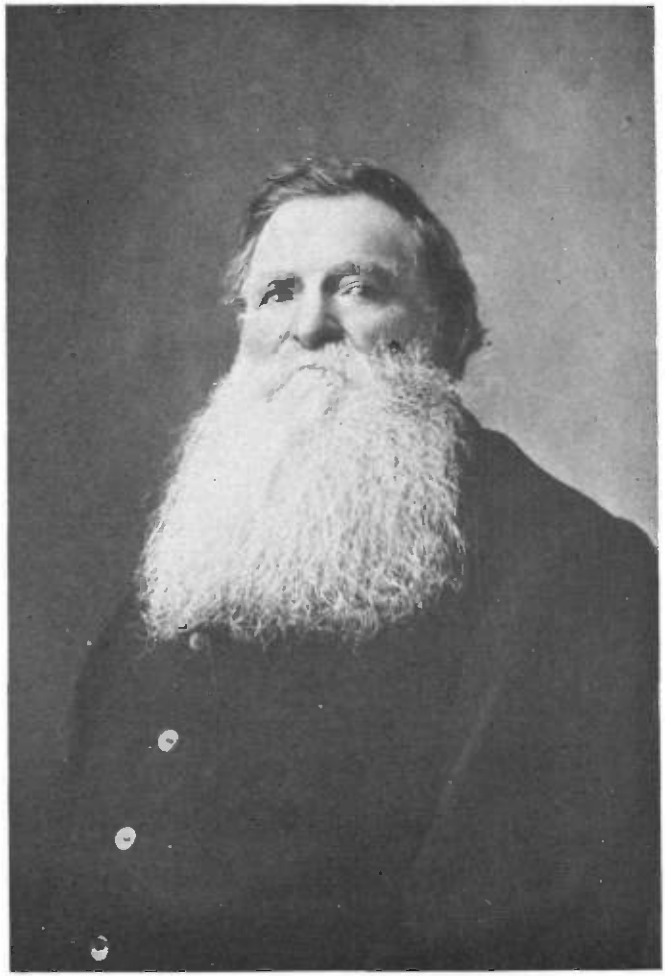
1888—Mayor, H. R. Wells; councilmen, G. A. Love, W. W. Fife, W. W. Foote, A. Weiser, H. C. Gullickson; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Luhman; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, G. F. Mann; attorney, H. S. Bassett.

1889—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, H. R. Wells, W. W. Foote, A. Weiser, C. H. Conkey, S. A. Langum; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; justice, E. Lint; overseer, H. Luhman; marshal, John Garletz; recorder, C. Peterson; attorney, H. S. Bassett.

1890—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, H. R. Wells, C. H. Conkey, A. Weiser, W. W. Foote, J. H. Phillips; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, Julius Johnson; justice, E. Lint; marshal, John Garletz.

1891—Mayor, C. H. Conkey; councilmen, H. C. Pooler, M. Anstett, A. W. Thompson, C. Kuethe, George Renner; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, O. H. Jacobson; justice, E. Lint; marshall, John Garletz.

1892—Mayor, C. H. Conkey; councilmen, M. Anstett, A. W. Thompson, H. C. Pooler, George Renner, C. Kuethe; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, O. H. Jacobson; justice, E. Lint; marshal, John Garletz.



JOHN TAYLOR

1893—Mayor, H. S. Bassett; councilmen, Carl Kuethe, F. A. Tinkham, L. O'Brien, H. S. Popple, George Hopp; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, Wm. J. Hey; justice, E. Lint; marshal, W. H. Pooler.

1894—Mayor, F. A. Tinkham; councilmen, C. Kuethe, L. O'Brien, George Hopp, George Renner, John Brady; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, William J. Hey; justices, E. Lint and C. Peterson; marshall, Elisha Barber; street commissioner, H. Seely. The mayor resigned September 1, and September 4 J. P. Tibbetts was elected in his place. This election was by the council declared void. October 11 M. R. Todd was elected mayor.

1895—Mayor, M. R. Todd; councilmen, C. H. Conkey, G. W. Hard, G. W. Robinson, Ole Nelson, W. W. Fife; treasurer, A. L. Bennett; recorder, Julius Johnson; marshal, Elisha Barber; justices, E. Lint, C. Peterson; street commissioner, Robert Joseph.

1896—Mayor, M. R. Todd; councilmen, G. W. Robinson, Ole Nelson, C. H. Conkey, G. W. Hard, W. W. Fife; treasurer, C. Kuethe; recorder, Julius Johnson; justices, E. Lint, C. K. Read; marshal, John Garletz; street commissioner, Jacob Kramer.

1897—Mayor, M. R. Todd; councilmen, G. W. Robinson, C. H. Conkey, W. W. Fife, Henry Nupson, G. W. Hard; treasurer, C. Kuethe; recorder, Julius Johnson; justice, B. F. DeHaven; marshal, William Ibach; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1898—Mayor, J. H. Phillips; councilmen, H. G. Hazen, A. W. Thompson, Henry Nupson, H. M. Wells, H. M. Conkey; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, J. J. Hagen; justices, E. Lint, B. F. DeHaven; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn; marshal, William Ibach.

1899—Mayor, A. W. Thompson; councilmen, H. G. Hazen, Henry Nupson, H. M. Conkey, J. H. Phillips, Charles Groth, Sr.; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, Charles Kruppenbacher; marshal, William Ibach; justices, E. Lint, J. G. Viall; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1900—Mayor, G. F. Mann; councilmen, H. S. Popple, H. M. Conkey, J. H. Phillips, E. G. Rappe, T. H. Morgan; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, Charles Kruppenbacher; marshal, Edward Haase; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1901—Mayor, A. W. Thompson; councilmen, M. M. Blunt, A. L. Long J. H. Phillips, J. W. Hopp, G. W. Hard; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, Charles Kruppenbacher; marshal, J. B. Grobey; justices, E. Lint, J. G. Viall; street commissioner, William Pooler.

1902—Mayor, A. W. Thompson; councilmen, G. W. Hard, Herman Kuhl, A. B. Smith, M. M. Blunt, H. M. Conkey; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, Charles Kruppenbacher; street

commissioner, Thomas Flynn; marshal, J. B. Grobey. A. W. Thompson resigned, G. W. Hard acted as mayor pro tem until T. L. Donovan was appointed.

1903—Mayor, T. L. Donovan; councilmen, Herman Kuhl, J. C. Mills, F. Read, C. F. Groth, H. Holdhusen; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, Charles Kruppenbacher; marshal, J. B. Grobey; justices, E. Lint, O. H. Jacobson; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn. T. L. Donovan resigned and G. A. Love was elected August 10 as mayor.

1904—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, J. C. Mills, George Renner, Herman Kuhl, F. Read, H. Holdhusen; treasurer, Gust Gartner; recorder, A. Backman; marshal, William Young; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1905—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, O. H. Gilbertson, Herman Kuhl, J. C. Mills, F. Read, George Renner; treasurer, E. T. Schoenbaum; recorder, A. Backman; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn; justices, E. Lint, O. H. Jacobson; marshal, William Young.

1906—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, Herman Kuhl; F. Read, George Renner, Ole Gilbertson, J. C. Mills; treasurer, E. T. Schoenbaum; recorder, George Weatherill; marshal, William Young; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1907—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, J. C. Mills, F. Read, O. H. Gilbertson, W. H. Williams, Joseph Dreier; treasurer, E. T. Schoenbaum; recorder, George Weatherill; justices, W. K. Read, E. Lint; marshal, William Young; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1908—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, W. H. Williams, Joseph Dreier, Henry Nupson, C. E. Snyder, Gust Gartner; treasurer, E. T. Schoenbaum; recorder, L. J. Luhmann; marshal, H. Holdhusen; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1909—Mayor, A. W. Thompson; councilmen, Joseph Dreier, W. H. Williams, Henry Nupson, C. E. Snyder, Gust Gartner; treasurer, E. T. Schoenbaum; recorder, L. J. Luhmann; justices, E. Lint, Julius Johnson; marshal, H. Holdhusen; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn.

1910—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, A. L. Bennet, M. M. Blunt, Gust Gartner, Joseph Dreier, F. Read; treasurer, G. W. Hard; recorder, William Kruppenbacher; marshal, O. W. Krause; street commissioner, Thomas Flynn. O. W. Krause resigned March 13 and George Ibach was appointed to fill the vacancy.

1911—Mayor, G. A. Love; councilmen, M. M. Blunt, Gust Gartner, Joseph Dreier, E. T. Schoenbaum, Thomas Churchill; treasurer, G. W. Hard; recorder, William Kruppenbacher; marshal, George Ibach; justices, E. Lint, Julius Johnson.

1912—Mayor, Henry Nupson; councilmen, A. G. Olson, E. T.

Schoenbaum, A. H. Langum, Gust Gartner, Thomas Churchill; recorder, William Kruppenbacher; treasurer, George W. Hard; assessor, George Hopp; marshal, George Ibach.

Electric Light System. Preston has a municipal electric light system, the station being located on the site of the old Vail cabin, the first house in Preston village. The municipal pumping station is in the same building. The streets are well lighted, and the citizens, to a large extent, have availed themselves of the system to illuminate their places of business and their residences. The current was first turned on for about ten minutes at 5:30 in the afternoon on October 29, 1896. The next day the system was in full operation, illuminating both streets and buildings.

Waterworks System. Few cities have as excellent a system of waterworks as Preston. The water, which is clear and sparkling, is furnished from the spring long known as the Vail spring, famous since the days of the first settler. The force of the water is sufficient for all purposes of fire protection, and the equipment is modern in every respect. The pumping station is conducted in connection with the electric light power plant, the site having been donated by Mary O'Brien. The water was first turned into the mains October 19, 1896, the fires having been put under the boilers October 16, 1896, but owing to the great pressure, a flaw in the piping on Main street developed into a crack and exploded with great force, necessitating a delay of several days before the system was put in full operation.

The City Hall and Library. The people of Preston are now completing a combined city hall and Carnegie library. As far back as August 5, 1886, the village purchased land on St. Paul street from the Louis Frank estate for a city hall and fire house. Here the fire apparatus was housed until 1911. May 1, 1911, the council voted to use the license fund to construct a village hall on the old site. May 8, 1911, a special election was held, and it was voted to make the village of Preston a separate election and assessment district, separate and apart from the townships of Carimona, Carrolton, Fountain and Preston, and each thereof in said county.

The village was to consist of the east half of section one, in Carimona; the east half of section thirty-six, in Fountain, and all of section thirty-one, Carrollton, and section six, Preston. At a special election June 20, 1911, the village voted $12,000 in bonds, one-half to be applied toward the payment of debts and one-half to be used in erecting a village hall. Later $10,000 was obtained. The plans were made, and it was decided to have the library and the city hall in one building. August 29, 1911, the plans for the lockup were approved by the state board. Work on the new building was commenced in the fall of 1911. It will

be completed this summer, although delayed by the falling of a part of the wall, December 11, 1911. The building is of ornamental brick, one story high, with basement. The library proper is forty by forty feet, and the village hall proper is thirty by sixty feet. The building will house not only the village hall and the library, but also the fire apparatus and the lockup. The rest room will also be located in the new structure.

The Preston library had its beginning in 1898, when the Browning Round Table, commonly known as the Browning Club, and consisting then of men and women, started a small collection of books. The story of the part taken by this club in the fostering of the library is told elsewhere. On March 2, 1908, at the request of the Browning Club and on motion of J. C. Mills, the council unanimously passed a resolution establishing a free public library, to be known as the "Preston Browning Public Library." The sum of $150 was voted for its maintenance for six months. The library of the Browning Club consisting of 327 volumes was accepted at the same time and a library board appointed consisting of: Mrs. C. M. Anderson, Mrs. Harriet E. Grattan, R. E. Thompson, Mrs. Nellie O'Brien, Mrs. Mary Love, Mrs. Emma A. Mills, Mrs. H. S. Bassett, Cora Bigelow and Reuben Kuethe. On October 12, 1908, the council decided to grant an additional sum of $150 or $25 a month, for the maintenance of the library for a second six months. The next spring a tax levy was made to support the library for a year. The councilmen at the time of the establishment of the public library, March 2, 1908, were: J. C. Mills, W. H. Williams, J. Drier, Frederick Read and C. E. Snyder. The mayor was Dr. G. A. Love. In June, 1909, the following entry appears in the village books: "Resolved, by the village council of the village of Preston, duly and regularly assembled in the mayor's office on June 22, 1909, pursuant to call, that in consideration that Andrew Carnegie will contribute the sum of $8,000 for the construction of the library building, the council of said village will procure a suitable site therefor in said village and levy an annual tax of 10 per cent, or $800, for the care and custody of said building and the procuring of suitable and proper books, and that the authorities of said village will properly maintain said building open for the use of the citizens and for the library to be perpetually maintained therein." October 11, 1909, a tax of 1.1 mills was laid for the library for the year commencing May 1, 1910. The site of the old Rink was secured, and the village decided to erect a city hall and library combined. July 10, 1911, the village recorder was instructed to take up the matter in behalf of the village with Andrew Carnegie, to secure $8,000 for a library, this action being the result of the special election held July 7,

1911. The necessary requirements were complied with, and the building will be completed in the summer of 1912. When the village first took hold of the library in 1908, rooms were secured in the Fillmore County Bank Building. In 1910 the library was moved to the upper floor of the Wesier Building. Since 1908 the librarians have been Florence Kiehle, Cora Bigelow, Mrs. E. B. Read, and Mrs. Gertrude Johnson has been assistant. The first library association in Preston was started January 1, 1867. The officers were: President, H. A. Billings; vice president, Reuben Wells; librarian, J. C. Braden; secretary, Ephriam McMurtrie; treasurer, J. B. Vail; directors, Rev. J. E. Burbank and D. B. Coleman. In the eighties books were distributed from the old L. O. Hamre Building, and were destroyed when that building was burned, in November, 1893.

The artist and poet, A. L. Sleyster, started a juvenile library in his studio, and these books are now a part of the volumes in the public library.

The Browning Round Table. This organization, consisting of men and women, and popularly known as the Browning Club, had an important part in the social and intellectual life of Preston, and is given the credit of having originated what has now developed into the public library of Preston.

In 1898 Mrs. Emma Allen Mills, aided by Sarah E. Brown, principal of the Preston High school, invited a number of the leading literary people of Preston to the Mills home for the purpose of starting a literary society, or reading club. At that meeting it was decided to read the poetical works of Robert Browning, and the club was organized as the Browning Round Table, but was popularly known as the Browning Club. Mrs. Mills acted as temporary chairman, and was elected as president and leader. It was decided to send for copies of the complete edition of Robert Browning's works, to be used as text books. The club grew in numbers until its membership was about thirty-five. Before long difficulties, inherent to Browning's style, lead to a realization of the need of a public library and its customary reference books. The lack of such in Preston was deplored and discussed, and a proposition was made to levy a tax of $1.50 per member, select a list of books, and thus start the nucleus of what the members hoped some day to be a Preston public library. Accordingly, committees were appointed for the selection of books, the forming and printing of suitable rules and regulations for their exchange and loan. It was agreed that they should be free to all members of the club, and a charge of 5 cents per book made to all others who wished to read them. The books were in great demand and the attempt proved a success. With the charge for loans and fines for keeping a book over time, and also from

new membership dues, new books were added. A committee was also appointed to secure the small collection of juvenile books made by A. L. Sleyster, photographer, some years previous. K. W. Buell offered to furnish a case for the books in his office, and also to keep a record of withdrawals and returns. It was also voted by the club that while these books were to be kept together as a nucleus of a hoped-for library, yet, if the plan should not succeed, all the books should go back to the original donor. Accordingly, a list of books, with names of the selector opposite each, was filed with the president. The books were never returned.

The poems of Robert Browning were studied all that year and about half of the next year. The president and leader, finding it impossible to be present the remainder of the year, resigned. Then the club, finding it difficult to render Browning without the help of one who had previously studied it, decided to read other authors. The men gradually dropped out. Many of these men, however, were afterward prominent in the movement which resulted in the taking over of the library by the city and the establishment of the public library.

The Browning Club, as a member of the Federated Clubs, dates from 1900, a reorganization being effected by the ladies that year. The first meeting of the season of 1900-1901 was held October 12 at the home of Mrs. Julia Lockerby. Mrs. Rosella Bailey was appointed temporary chairman, and Edna McGregor secretary pro tem. It was moved that those present organize into a club to be called the Browning Club, and that the officers be nominated by informal ballot. Mrs. Catherine Moriarty was chosen president; Mrs. Julia Lockerby, vice president; Mrs. Rosella Bailey, secretary, and Edna McGregor, treasurer. October 6 the constitution was presented and adopted. Article II was: "The object of this club shall be to form an organized center for the mental and social culture of its members. To this end the club shall encourage a liberal exchange of thought by papers and discussions upon all subjects pertaining to its object." The by-laws were as follows: Article I—Membership. Any woman may become a member of The Browning Club upon the payment of $1.15 and signing the constitution. Article II—Dues. Each member shall pay 50 cents a year dues, unless otherwise voted by the club. Article III—Books. 1. The books of The Browning Library shall be free to members of the club. 2. Anyone may draw a book from The Browning Library upon the payment of 5 cents. 3. Books drawn from the library must be returned within a limit of two weeks.

The club now discussed the advisability of joining the Fed-

EDWARD DUXBURY AND FAMILY

erated Clubs, and became a part of the State Federation some time in November, 1900. The club motto adopted was:

"All service ranks the same with God,
"With God, whose puppets, best and worst,
"Are we. There is no last nor first."

During this year the Browning Club secured for the town a lecture course, consisting of lectures by Maria Sanford and others, and an entertainment by the Philharmonic Quartette.

April 13, 1901, Mrs. Joan Day was elected president for the ensuing year and Mrs. Rosella Bailey secretary.

It was decided to leave the books where they were, in the office of K. W. Buell, the county superintendent of schools. January 6, 1903, the club met with Mrs. Nellie O'Brien to select books for the Browning Club library, and labels were purchased for the books given by Mr. Sleyster. The books were then moved to the store of F. C. Bailey, in the Bailey block. On March 31 it was found that all the books were in except one. During the years 1902-1903 Mrs. Nellie O'Brien was president.

During the years 1903-1904 Mrs. Harriet E. Grattan was president. The Bay View course of study was adopted. In 1904-1905 Mrs. Joan Day again became president, and proposed that the club agitate the establishment of a town library. The secretary was instructed to write to Andrew Carnegie. This was done, but nothing came of the effort at that time. Mrs. C. M. Anderson, president for 1905-1906, called a special meeting at her home for the purpose of discussing the possibility of obtaining a room to be used as a public library and reading room, and also to decide upon a list of books to be purchased for the library. A committee consisting of Cora Bigelow, Edna McGregor and Mrs. Jennie Wells was appointed to call upon the business men of the town to solicit aid for the proposed reading room. The business men, however, did not give the looked-for encouragement, and it was decided to have no reading room that winter. But the library grew from year to year under the fostering care of the Browning Club, and the way was slowly but surely prepared for a public library. The club gave a basket sociable on St. Patrick's Day, 1905, to raise money to buy more books.

In the spring of 1906, as Rev. F. C. Bailey was to close his store, it was decided to move the library into the store occupied by J. W. Drake. Mr. and Mrs. Drake acted as librarians, for which, in lieu of a salary, they received a vote of thanks, and Mrs. Drake was made an honorary member of the club. In the fall of 1906, under the presidency of Mrs. Anderson, who was re-elected, an entertainment, in the form of a home talent play, was given. All who took part in the play were given the free

use of the books. The receipts from the entertainment were expended on the library. A neat catalogue was made for the books, which then numbered about 327, and it was decided to put on the cover, "Catalogue of The Browning Library Books."

Mrs. Harriet E. Grattan was elected president for the years 1907-1908. The minutes of the club for February 29, 1908, read: "A special meeting of the club was called at 3 o'clock at Mrs. Nellie O'Brien's to talk over the public library and to listen to explanations concerning it, given by Mrs. John C. Mills." The members decided to meet with the council March 2, 1908, and ask it to establish a reading room and library.

Consequently the members of the club went to the council meeting and offered to give their library of about 327 books, their cases and their catalogues to the village if the council would establish a free public library. A budget of estimated expenses for six months amounted to $150, and the council voted this amount. The mayor appointed a library board consisting of five club members and four others, and this work of the Browning Club was terminated. The library became the property of the city.

Still the Browning Club had a great interest in the growth of this infant library and co-operated most heartily with the library board in getting up a book shower which added many books to the library.

In May, 1909, it was decided to resume the study of Browning for the ensuing year, and Mrs. Mills was elected leader. Browning was also studied by the club during the years 1910-1911. Shakespeare was studied in 1911-1912.

The present officers of the club are: Mrs. C. M. Anderson, president; Mrs. Harriet E. Grattan, vice president; Mrs. Emma Mills, secretary; Mrs. Nellie O'Brien, treasurer.

The Preston Commercial Club, recently organized, has already proven its worth as a social and business organization, and has many plans on foot for the betterment of the village. It was organized November 6, 1911, the stockholders being: Ludvig Gullickson, A. W. Thompson, L. J. Luhmann, A. G. Olson, A. P. Nelson, Henry A. Larson, W. B. Grinnell, A. D. Becker, E. K. Blexrud, George L. Harrington, L. O'Brien, A. H. Langum, G. F. Harrington, J. E. Kumm, A. H. Olson, O. H. Titterud, E. H. Cummings, S. A. Langum, E. A. Highum, John W. Hopp, Charles H. Utley.

In addition to this there are thirty associate members. The officers are: Ludvig Guillickson, president; A. W. Thompson, vice president; A. H. Langum, secretary; A. G. Olson, treasurer; directors, George L. Harrington, E. H. Cummings, A. H. Langum.

The club has modern quarters in the Syndicate Block, with a

large gymnasium and dance hall, billiard room, pool room, three card rooms, a reading room and various other advantages.

The object of the club, as set forth in the constitution is as follows: "The general purpose of this corporation shall be to promote commercial and manufacturing enterprise and activity, to assist, encourage and protect the business interests and to foster and advance the welfare, prosperity, growth and development of the village of Preston, and to establish and maintain a social club for the social benefit of its members and friends."

Cemeteries. Preston has six cemeteries, the German Lutheran, the Greenwood, the German Methodist, the Norwegian Lutheran, the Crown Hill and the St. Joseph.

PRESTON TOWNSHIP.

Preston. The shire town of the county is the southeast of the four central towns, and has for immediate neighbors Carrolton on the north, Amherst on the east, Harmony on the south, and Carimona on the west. In form and size it corresponds with a town of government survey. The south branch of Root river impinges upon the northwest corner of the town, and Camp creek, arising in Harmony, runs north from section thirty-three to section five, where it joins the main stream. It is a good farming town with considerable rolling prairie; Union prairie involving the northeastern part and Highland prairie the southeastern. The soil varies from a rich black loam in the valleys to light clay of a sandy character on the hills. In addition to the streams mentioned the town is well watered with springs which bubble up at the surface, yielding sparkling water in abundance.

Early Settlement. The earliest settlers known to have taken claims here were Andrew Tollefson and Torger Peterson, who, coming from their native Norway, arrived in August, 1853, and took up their local habitations in sections twenty-two and twenty-three. Mr. Tollefson built his house on section twenty-two, but afterwards moved it onto section twenty-three. The log house erected in 1853 by Andrew Tollefson on section twenty-two is still standing, though its aspect has been considerably changed.

In 1854 D. M. Little, a native of Ohio, came here and pre-empted land in section three. A. J. Tillotson, of Ohio, also came with him, but Mr. Little went back and did not return until 1856. Robert Krees settled in section twenty-two. Robert Henderson came from Canada in 1854 and took some land in section twenty-six. Ole Munson was on section fifteen, Andreas Tollefson was on section fourteen. E. O. Wilson, a Norwegian who had stopped a while in Illinois, took up his abode about the same time. The Duxburys settled on Partridge creek in the southern

part of the township. There were quite a number of others.

In 1855 William Ginder settled on section five and Chris. Hahn settled on section four. This year also brought several others.

During the year 1856 Henry Milne located in section twenty-six, and Robert McCallum secured a claim in section twenty-two. These men were from Scotland. William Boice, of Dutchess county, New York, settled in section thirty-two. John Mills, an Englishman, transferred himself to section twenty-two. John Long, of Maryland, placed himself in section eight. The history of the town and city of Preston is necessarily blended together in a great measure, and in the sketches of the two they overlap each other.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Preston township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: August 15, Joseph Weymouth, 30; August 17, Aaron Grigsby, 7; August 17, John Jones, 18; August 17, Edwin O. Wilson, 19; September 1, Rufus D. Weymouth, 29; September 15, Robert Wilson, 18; November 8, Duncan M. Little, 3; November 24, Andrew J. Tillotson, 3.

Those who obtained land in 1855 were as follows: May 26, John Kaercher, 6; June 15, Andrew Thompson, 24; August 30, William Ginder, 5; August 8, Elias Lint, 18; August 8, Samuel M. Shuck, 7; September 3, Joseph Ober, 34; October 5, David R. Smith, 19; October 6, Torger Pederson, 23; October 6, Andrew Tollefson, 22-23; October 6, Michael Tullison, 9; October 9, Henry O. Billings, 3; October 10, John Duxbury, 28; October 10, Thomas Duxbury, 28-29; October 10, Robert Henderson, 26; October 10, Thomas Reece, 28-33; October 17, David B. Freemire, 31; October 17, Oorenso Luce, 30; November 16, William Eppinger, 17; November 16, John Maust, —; November 16, Thomas Wilson, 20-29; November 16, Orrin West, 31; November 16, John B. Willey, 30; November 16, Robert Wilson, Sr., 18.

Early Events. John Henderson, son of Robert and Janet Henderson, was born on July 5, 1854. Mary Bendrickson on April 20, 1856. Purdy Hart and Phebe J. Boice were married in the spring of 1857. Rufus D. Weymouth and Mary S. Painter were married in August, 1857. On July 8, 1854, Bendrick Bendrickson, a son of Knudt and Robina Bendrickson, died at the age of five years, and was buried on his father's farm in section twenty-four. Purdy Bain died on November 21, 1856.

Political. The primary election and town meeting to set the local machinery in motion after the institution of the state gov-

ernment was on May 11, 1858. The town officers elected at that time were: Supervisors, S. B. Murrell (chairman), John Duxbury and Thomas S. Vickerman; town clerk, B. S. Loomis; collector, D. R. Smith; assessor, Oliver Williams; justices of the peace, S. B. Murrell and Duncan Murray; constables, William D. Lipe and William Hutton; overseer of the poor, E. O. Wilson; overseers of the highways, J. K. Bradbury and Berge Oleson. At this election 133 votes were polled. The political machinery in town, so far as the discharge of official duties is concerned, has gone on smoothly which ever party has been in power. In 1911 the village was separated from the township.

Railroad Bonds. Bonds were issued by the authority of town on August 27, 1879, to the amount of $25,000, in aid of the construction of the "Caledonia, Mississippi & Western Railroad." These bonds were fifty in number for $500 each, were to receive 7 per cent interest, and were payable on or before the expiration of twenty years. They were conditioned upon the road being built into town.

Preston in the War of 1861. The action of the town in recruiting our armies in the field will not suffer in comparison with others in the country. On two occasions the town was required to raise money for additional bounty, and it was promptly done. On August 5, 1864, at a meeting of the board of supervisors, a tax was levied to pay an additional bounty of $200 to each and every man who should volunteer, and thus help fill the quota of the town. Again, in December, 1864, in response to the president's call for more, the supervisors levied another tax to put the bounty up to $400 each to be paid by the town.

CHAPTER XVIII.

SPRING VALLEY CITY AND TOWNSHIP.

Spring Valley City—Its Modern Aspect—Early Days—Municipal History—Fire Department—Library—Rest Room—Waterworks and Lights—Commercial Club—Other Advantages—Spring Valley Township—Early Settlement and Organization—Former Villages—Edited by Sidney J. Huntley.

God touched the earth in kindness, and lo, it dimpled where
It felt His mighty finger, and a valley nestled there;
And He told the angel artist to paint a sky more blue
Than ever dainty violet or airy bluebell knew,
And to stretch it o'er that valley, as a promise from its God,
That peace and plenty there should spring like flowers from the sod.

"Flowers bloom best midst environment of sunshine and intelligent cultivation, and cities live longest and happiest where conditions conduce to the loftiest development of moral, financial and physical culture." This was written by a common sense philosopher long before this city had its beginning, but it is so pertinent to the subject in hand that it requires no stretch of distinguishing ability to cite Spring Valley as an exemplification of the quotation.

To those who have an intimate acquaintance with Spring Valley, the story of its general status will furnish pleasure rather than interest, while to the many who may get their first or more intimate impressions of its advantages through this work, brief details may prove a valuable index to possibilities which will result in future profits to both town and reader.

Spring Valley, a city of nearly 2,000 inhabitants, is located in the western part of Fillmore county, on the southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and also on the Chicago & Great Western Road. Since the city was founded its growth has been slow, but substantial, and with unfaltering progress along the line of permanent development, until today it has a commercial, social and artistic standing excelled by none of its neighbors, and equalled by few of them. And the important factors of this development are the unexcelled advan-

CORDELLO WILKINS

tages of location, natural resources, pure water, good health and the productiveness of the farms tributary to Spring Valley. With its two lines of transportation and easy accessibility to market, this city has long held the record as the banner stock shipping point in southern Minnesota, it being no unusual sight to see a solid train load of hogs shipped from this city to the Chicago market at one time, while eggs and poultry are shipped East by the carload. The Spring Valley Creamery, one of the largest and best co-operative creameries in this famous dairy section, has long held its supremacy, while the Spring Valley Flour Mills are known far and wide from the excellence of their product. A line of elevators operated by independent buyers and also by the large grain companies, keeps the grain and cereal market at the top notch, while the Farmers' Co-operative Buyers and Shippers' Association, a strong organization of farmers, is a potent factor in giving the farmer the largest possible returns for the products of the soil, the dairy, the flocks and herds. Two substantial banking houses, with deposits aggregating nearly a million dollars and each with a surplus which equals their capital stock, makes this city a financial center for a large territory. Three fine school houses, with all the modern and up-to-date methods, including an agricultural school, affords the best of instruction for the youth of city and country. A fine public library, with thousands of volumes, adds its potent influence to the intellectual uplift of the community, while seven churches minister to the moral welfare of large congregations.

Spring Valley has one hotel, two banks, three garages, one bakery, one laundry, two theaters, two dentists, four lawyers, one orchestra, one flour mill, two nurseries, seven churches, two shoe shops, three physicians, three art stores, one public park, one junk dealer, two newspapers, two drug stores, one music store, four paint shops, three restaurants, one tailor shop, one cigar factory, one billiard hall, one rental agency, two lumber yards, one broom factory, a sewerage system, four stock buyers, five grocery stores, two bicycle shops, four wagon shops, one livery stable, two meat markets, two jewelry stores, two harness shops, four machine shops, two plumbing shops, two baseball clubs, two furniture stores, five blacksmith shops, four hardware stores, three millinery stores, two resident opticians, two veterinary surgeons, four dry goods stores, six dressmaking shops, four grain warehouses, one electric light plant, several boarding houses, four real estate dealers, four job printing offices, two photograph galleries, six boot and shoe stores, three insurance agencies, two coal and wood yards, 2,000 inhabitants, one steel neckyoke factory, one local telephone exchange, three breeders of race horses, three three-chair barber shops, an up-to-date fire

department, marble and monumental works, four rural free delivery routes, five contractors and builders, two undertaking establishments, one ladies' furnishing goods store, one wide-awake commercial club, three cement sidewalk manufacturers, three agricultural implement dealers, one architect (state-wide reputation), best brass band in southern Minnesota, one public library and free reading room, the healthiest climate in the United States, splendid trout fishing in nearby streams, municipal judge and two justices of the peace, three clothing and gentlemen's furnishing stores, two railroads with eight passenger trains daily, all of the principal benevolent and fraternal orders, three fine school buildings employing twenty teachers, two long distance telephone systems (rural telephone lines), one creamery (best in the state, annual product exceeds $150,000), one wholesale poultry and egg house (annual business $125,000), a municipal waterworks system which furnishes the purest of water.

Business Men of the Day. The business men of Spring Valley who have their hands on the pulse of commercial life are a wide-awake, progressive and liberal body. Yet with their progression and liberality is blended a conservatism which insures success. Their occupations and necessities keep them in touch with the popular requirements in their particular lines of business. Among those noted in this history will be recognized many excellent specimens of their calling, a great majority of whom have won their laurels in the avenues of trade. They represent to a great extent the brains and intelligence of its commercial leaders, and the successes they have already achieved are proof that they know how to keep abreast of the times in all that goes to make up business conquest. The pre-eminently successful merchant of today has discarded the slow methods of his predecessors. He is alert and enterprising to a high degree, and with his progressive spirit surmounts almost overwhelming obstacles and strikes out in new directions, working along the highway which ultimately leads to great success. Those mentioned in this history are known as "hard workers." At their places of business early and late, with honest endeavor to succeed and an eye to the future, they are as representative a body as could be found in any city—men of fearless integrity, whose word is as good as their bond. They are not distinguished for their great wealth, but their bank accounts are the results of their own industry. Their careers make an interesting chapter in the history of this city.

Early History. In 1853 Zara Warner took a claim in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight. In the same year T. F. Huntley took a claim in sections thirty-three and thirty-four. They

erected claim shanties, brought their families, started to break the land, and were the original inhabitants of what afterward became the village of Spring Valley. Nothing was done toward establishing a village in 1853 and 1854.

In 1855 there arrived a group of men who were the real founders of the village. The company consisted of Joseph B. Thayer, Nelson Burdick, I. N. Cummings, H. A. Billings and J. M. Strong. They came from Pennsylvania and arrived in Fillmore county May 14, 1855, taking dinner at Elliota, and reaching the home of Gilbert Bassett, at Forestville, for the night. They arrived in Spring Valley May 15, and took dinner with Zara Warner. After looking over the land the men organized the Spring Valley Association and purchased twenty acres from Mr. Warner and 160 from Mr. Huntley, paying $200 in gold. The next day they started back to Iowa. The land of Mr. Warner lay north of Jefferson street and the land of Mr. Huntley south of it.

June 16, 1855, a quarter section in sections thirty-three and thirty-four was pre-empted by J. B. Thayer, this being the land on a part of which the original village was platted.

In 1855 the site selected began to assume the aspects of a pioneer village.

The first store was put up in 1855 by I. N. Cummings, occupying the present site of the Commercial Hotel. Mr. Cummings and his family occupied the second story of the store. It is said that when Mr. Cummings located here he brought about $300 worth of goods, which he first displayed for sale in a rail pen covered with boards, using this primitive place of trade until the store was completed.

The first hotel was put up in 1855, and was opened by Myron Conklin. The hotel was of logs, and stood a little south of the river on the west side of what is now Broadway.

Two frame residences were erected on the village site in 1855. One was that of H. A. Billings, the building being located near where the Burgess Brothers Lumber Yard is now operated. The other was the residence of Cordello Wilkins. This house contained three rooms, and was in those days regarded as a model of convenience and luxury.

These houses, one store, one hotel and two residences, were all that occupied the village site when W. L. Kellogg arrived in the spring of 1856.

In the meantime, in 1855 Thomas C. Watson had settled east of the village, on what is now the Kellogg farm, and John M. Smith had opened a small store there, a school also being taught that year by Ann Kingsley, a sister of Mrs. John M. Smith.

In the spring of 1856 two different villages, each known as

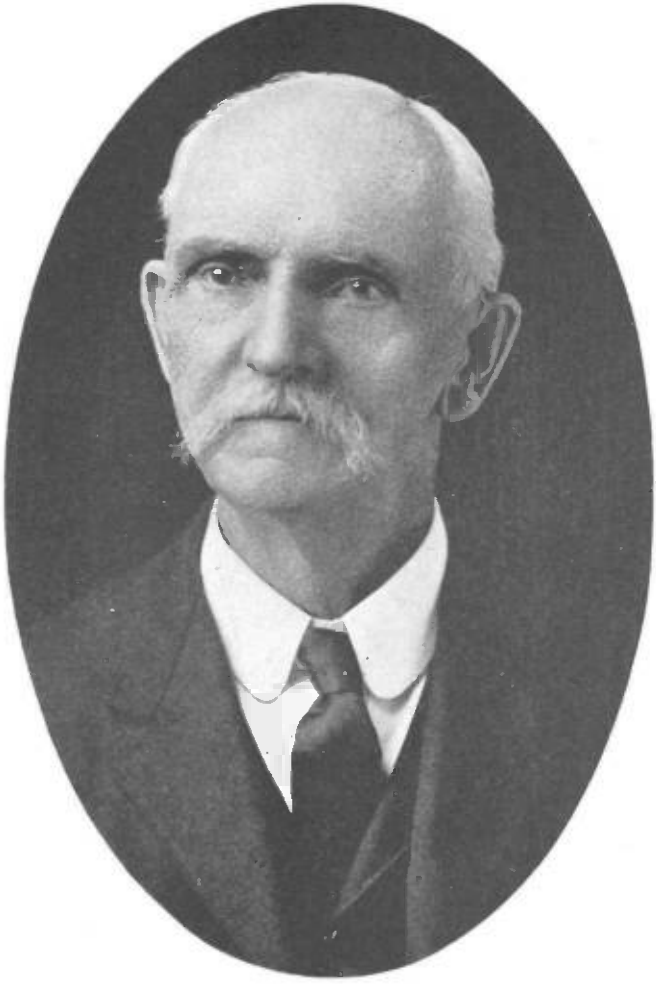
Spring Valley, were platted and recorded. March 21, 1856, Thomas C. Watson platted a village called Spring Valley, on what is now the Kellogg farm, east of the present village. April 7, 1856, J. B. Thayer platted what is now known as the original plat of Spring Valley, lying south of Jefferson street and west of Section street.

In the race for existence the town platted by Thayer survived, and Watson's town became a farm, John M. Smith soon moving to Thayer's village and opening his store here.

Spring Valley in 1858. A pamphlet issued in 1858 has the following to say of Spring Valley: "The village was laid out in the spring of 1856, and now contains some thirty or more houses. In approaching the town the eye is first attracted by the handsome white school house which crowns an eminence overlooking the village, and was built before the village was two years old, at a cost of over $1,500. A church will soon be built. In the meantime services are being held in the school house. Descending the gentle slope from the school house, we come to the steam flouring and sawmills of Stevens & Son. The grist mill is driven by an engine of fifteen horse power, and cuts 2,000 feet of lumber in twelve hours. A lath saw and shingle machine are also connected with the mill, and now in operation. The Spring Valley Hotel, kept by Farmer, is a well arranged and comfortable house. Here are two stores and several mechanics. A lyceum has been in operation for several months, and its weekly sessions are attended by old and young." The advertisements which appear are those of H. M. Steele, attorney; J. M. Strong & Co., general store; Spring Valley Steam Flouring & Saw Mills, Stevens & Son; H. Gilbert, M. D., drugs and medicines. The other store was that of Thomas C. Watson. B. F. Farmer, in the meantime, had opened a blacksmith shop. The hotel mentioned was kept by Hiram and George W. Farmer.

Prominent Pioneers. Among the prominent men in or near Spring Valley in the days of the earliest settlement, there should be mentioned, in addition to those given space elsewhere, the following: Eleazer Root, Jessie Cartlich and sons, Charles, Joseph and D. C., George Fesler, Orlan Root, William S. Hill, Charles A. Cady, Dr. W. P. Belden, John Kleckler, Joseph R. and S. C. Kellogg, Henry Low, Henry Prosser, John Sample, W. T. Wilkins, N. B. Smith, Thomas Scott, James Scott, ———— Peabody, E. McMurtrie, T. M. Chapman, Joseph Watson.

Municipal History. A village government was authorized for Spring Valley in the winter of 1872, by a special act of the legislature. The following named persons were elected the first officers: President, C. E. Evans; chairman, S. A. Hunt, I. N. Cummings, J. F. Stevens and L. Griswold; treasurer, A. J. Alley; recorder,



W. L. KELLOGG

J. S. Lee; justice of the peace, W. P. Carroll; marshal, D. Twohey.

1873—President, C. E. Evans; council, C. G. Edwards, Israel Taylor, T. W. Tower, J. S. Lee; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. J. Alley; marshal, H. B. Thayer; attorney, W. P. Carroll; justice, C. D. Farnsworth; assessor, G. W. Gregory; overseers, J. E. Whiteman, A. D. Preston; surveyor, J. C. Stevens.

1874—President, C. E. Evans; council, N. B. Smith, J. B. Thayer, M. P. Lower, I. Thayer; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. J. Alley; marshal, E. W. Thayer; attorney, John T. Carey; justice, G. W. Gregory; assessor, G. W. Gregory.

1875—President, S. A. Hunt; council, M. P. Lower, G. M. Warren, D. A. Sullivan, A. P. Flower; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. J. Alley; marshal, E. W. Thayer; attorney, J. D. Farmer; justice, R. D. Smith; overseer, A. J. Hilts.

1876—President, C. W. Demmon; council, A. B. Flower, M. P. Lower, D. A. Sullivan, W. W. Bonticou; recorder, C. S. McLean; treasurer, A. J. Alley; marshal, T. Wilkins; attorney, J. D. Farmer; justice, G. W. Gregory; overseer, W. H. Lloyd. C. W. Demmon, elected mayor, refused to serve, and E. S. Bumstead was elected.

1877—President, John King; council, J. F. Stevens, H. F. Miller, E. Steffens, E. S. Bumstead; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, T. Wilkins; attorney, J. D. Farmer; justice, G. W. Gregory; overseer, C. D. Farnsworth.

1878—President, C. M. Clark; council, E. Steffens, N. Erass, W. F. Jerome, H. A. Billings; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, T. Wilkins; attorney, J. D. Farmer; justice, G. W. Gregory; overseer, C. D. Farnsworth.

1879—President, C. M. Clark; council, E. Steffens, J. Q. Farmer, S. A. Hunt, E. W. Allard; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, T. Wilkins; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, A. R. Holman; assessor, N. R. Booth; surveyor, M. F. Varney; overseer, A. Gould.

1880—Chairman, C. M. Clark; council, S. A. Hunt, E. S. Steffens, E. M. Brown, D. A. Sullivan; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, E. W. Thayer; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, George C. Weed; surveyor M. Varney; overseer, C. E. Huntley.

1881—Chairman, D. A. Sullivan; council, A. F. Whiteman, E. W. Thayer, L. Bar, H. J. Anderson; recorder; W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, T. A. Wilkins; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, George C. Weed; overseer, C. E. Huntley; surveyor, M. F. Varney.

1882—Chairman, E. W. Thayer; council, D. A. Sullivan, J. N. Graling, George Hibner, W. A. Potter; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, P. Cusick; attorney, George

E. Hibner; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, A. F. Whitman; overseer, T. A. Douglass.

1883—Chairman, S. C. Lobdill; council, J. W. Hoxsie, C. F. Kumm, F. N. Miller, G. M. Warren; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, D. C. Hendershott; attorney, George E. Hibner; justice, A. R. Holman; overseer, C. E. Huntley; surveyor, W. M. Mason.

1884—Chairman, J. N. Graling; council, F. V. Edwards, E. W. Thayer, W. A. Potter, E. C. Gale; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, P. Cusick; attorney, George E. Hibner; justice, N. T. Tolmie; surveyor, W. M. Mason; overseer, B. F. Holman.

1885—Chairman, W. H. Strong; council, W. Bonticou, D. A. Sullivan, J. W. Hoxsie, M. E. Molstad; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, T. Wilkins; attorney, George E. Hibner; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, W. M. Mason; overseer, C. E. Huntley.

1886—Chairman, I. N. Cummings; council, C. G. King, J. N. Graling, E. C. Gale, L. C. Payne; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, Thomas Reid; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, H. T. Tolmie; surveyor, W. M. Mason; overseer, H. K. Bateman.

1887—Chairman, J. N. Graling; council, E. W. Thayer, F. V. Edwards, E. C. Gale, W. G. Rundell; recorder, W. L. Kellogg; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, P. Cusick; attorney, A. R. Burleson; justice, George Weed; surveyor, W. N. Mason; overseer, C. E. Huntley.

1888—Chairman, J. N. Graliug; council, E. W. Thayer, F. V. Edwards, George Payne, W. G. Rundell; recorder, A. R. Burleson; treasurer, N. W. Williams; marshal, P. Cusick; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, W. M. Mason; overseer, Henry Goldberry.

1889—Chairman, C. M. Clark; council, E. W. Thayer, W. H. Arnold, J. R. Johnson, B. H. Holmes; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, George Schell; attorney, C. D. Allen; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, W. M. Mason; overseer, Henry Goldberry. March 18, 1889, the trustees of the village met at 2 in the afternoon. Ballot was taken for chairman. At 5 forty-one ballots had been taken with no decision. The board adjourned to meet at 8 o'clock in the evening. March 18, 1889, the board met pursuant to adjournment and again proceeded to ballot for chairman. No decision was reached until a ballot had been taken one hundred and six times. At the one hundred and sixth ballot C. M. Clark received a majority of the votes and was elected chairman of village council.

1890—Chairman, J. R. Johnson; council, W. H. Strong, W. W.

Bonticou, D. A. Sullivan, B. H. Holmes; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, M. M. Cowles; attorney, C. D. Allen; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, L. H. Osterud.

1891—Chairman, F. W. Thornhill; council, S. M. Wilder, M. E. Molstad, W. G. Rundell, E. Steffens; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, A. P. Flower; marshal, H. O. Shaw; attorney, Burdett Thayer; justice, E. W. Thayer; surveyor, Joseph Zigmund, F. W. Thornhill was elected chairman on the third ballot.

1892—Chairman, J. N. Graling; council, W. G. Rundell, E. Steffens, S. M. Wilder, F. V. Edwards; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, C. G. King; marshal, R. C. Livingstone; attorney, R. J. Parker; justice, E. W. Thayer; surveyor, Joseph Zigmund.

1893—Chairman, B. F. Farmer; council, E. W. Thayer, L. H. Ostrude, M. P. Lower, B. R. Holmes; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, Kerry Conley; marshal, R. C. Livingstone; attorney, R. J. Parker; justice, H. E. Leach; surveyor, Joseph Zigmund.

1894—Chairman, M. P. Lower; council, T. A. Sorenson, B. H. Holmes, C. F. Kumm, B. F. Farmer; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; marshal, C. A. Lamson; attorney, R. J. Parker; justice, A. R. Holman; surveyor, Joseph Zigmund.

1895—Chairman, F. W. Thornhill; council, M. E. Molstad, Samuel M. Mason, E. W. Thayer, S. L. Olds; recorder, J. C. Halbkat; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; marshal, C. A. Lamson; attorney, R. J. Parker; justice, H. T. Tomlie; surveyor, Joseph Zigmund.

1896—President, B. F. Farmer; council, W. W. Bonticou, W. W. Washburn, John Leuthold, Frank Rafferty, Jr.; recorder, Harris E. Leach; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; marshal, C. A. Lamson; attorney, R. J. Parker; justice, H. T. Tolmie.

1897—President, D. A. Sullivan; council, W. W. Bonticou, C. J. Rothermel, N. T. Cummings, Frank Rafferty, Jr.; recorder, Harris E. Leach; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; marshal, C. A. Lamson; justice, H. T. Tolmie. March 8, 1898, the electors voted for reincorporation of village under chapter 146, General Laws of 1891.

1898—President, Frank Rafferty; council, Ward 1, C. C. Sheldon, W. W. Bonticou; ward 2, D. A. Sullivan, G. J. Schell; recorder, E. G. Washburn; assessor, B. E. Page; municipal judge, R. J. Parker; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg.

1899—President, Frank Rafferty; council, ward 1, C. C. Sheldon, W. W. Bonticou; ward 2, D. A. Sullivan, G. J. Schell; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, B. E. Page.

1900—President, D. A. Sullivan; council, ward 1, C. C. Sheldon, Edwin Bartlett; ward 2, N. T. Cummings, S. M. Wilder; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, B. E. Page; justices, Burdett Thayer, Asa R. Burleson.

1901—President, J. N. Graling; council, ward 1, J. B. Sample, S. H. Hale; ward 2, M. E. Molstad, A. C. Barnes; recorder, George A. Beagle; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, Charles Burkhardt; municipal judge, Burdett Thayer; justice, H. T. Tolmie.

1902—President, F. W. Thornhill; council, ward 1, S. H. Hale, John Diffendarfer; ward 2, E. F. Ostrander, J. E. Wilcox; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, B. E. Page; justice, Asa R. Burleson.

1903—President, M. P. Lower; council, ward 1, Elwin Bartlett, C. E. Lawrence; ward 2, E. F. Ostrander, G. J. Schell; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; municipal judge, Burdett Thayer; assessor, F. H. Viall; justice, H. T. Tolmie.

1904—President, M. P. Lower; council, ward 1, C. E. Lawrence, Elwin Bartlett; ward 2, E. F. Ostrander, J. E. Wilcox; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. Kingsley; justice, Asa R. Burleson.

1905—President, N. T. Cummings; council, ward 1, N. J. Warner, Charles Sattler; ward 2, D. A. Sullivan, J. E. Wilcox; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. N. Kingsley; justice, H. T. Tolmie; municipal judge, S. C. Pattridge.

1906—President, N. T. Cummings; council, ward 1, Charles Sattler, N. J. Warner; ward 2, J. E. Wilcox, G. M. Warren; recorder, E. G. Washburn; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. N. Kingsley; justice, Asa R. Burleson.

1907—President, John C. Keenan; council, ward 1, E. L. Sheldahl, Samuel Gammel; ward 2, N. N. Kendrick, James E. Scott; recorder, Roy Viall; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessors, W. N. Kingsley; justice, H. T. Tolmie; municipal judge, S. C. Pattridge.

1908—President, John C. Keenan; council, ward 1, E. L. Sheldahl, Samuel Gammel; ward 2, J. E. Wilcox, John Biederbick; recorder, Roy Viall; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. N. Kingsley; justice, Asa R. Burleson.

1909—President, P. R. Jorris; council, ward 1, E. B. Davis, Edwin Kilburn; ward 2, J. E. Wilcox, Andrew Thompson; recorder, Roy Viall; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. N. Kingsley; municipal judge, S. C. Pattridge; justice, H. T. Tolmie.

1910—President, P. R. Jorris; council, ward 1, E. B. Davis, Edwin Kilburn; ward 2, J. E. Wilcox, Andrew Thompson; recorder, Roy Viall; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor, W. N. Kingsley; justice, Asa R. Burleson.

1911—President, J. C. Keenan; council, ward 1, M. J. Graling, A. G. Kruegel; ward 2, E. W. Thayer, E. A. Leonard; recorder, E. G. H. Adams; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; assessor,

W. H. LEE

W. N. Kingsley; municipal judge, S. C. Pattridge; justice, H. T. Tolmie.

1912—President, John C. Keenan; council, ward 1, M. J. Graling, A. G. Kruegel; ward 2, E. W. Thayer, E. A. Leonard; recorder, E. G. H. Adams; treasurer, W. L. Kellogg; marshal, J. G. Tobler; municipal judge, S. C. Pattridge; justices, A. R. Burleson and H. T. Tolmie.

"Politics" do not cut much, if any, figure in the municipal government of this city. The mayor and other principal municipal officers have ever been chosen from our most progressive and substantial business men and citizens, who, almost without exception, have labored for the upbuilding and best interests of our city. The demand exists in the form of a very clearly crystalized and stable public sentiment for a business-like administration of public affairs by practical business men, and this demand has usually been recognized and carried out, thus giving to our city a succession of municipal administrations whose records in the main have been good, and uniformly devoid of any taint or any suspicion of municipal scandal.

The present mayor of Spring Valley, John C. Keenan, for example, is a man whose painstaking and unselfish devotion to the city is beyond all criticism. No man could be more loyal to personal interests than he is to the municipal interests of Spring Valley, and his sufficient reward, when his official task shall have been done, like the reward of those who have preceded him, will lie in fact, recognized and appreciated by the people, that in his faithfulness he has helped on the advancement of Spring Valley. The councilmen composing the municipal board are found loyally holding up the mayor's hands in every good work on the city's behalf. The members of the board are practical business men and good citizens, and all their official acts are consequently intelligent and broad-gauged, having reference to the city's business future not less than to its present. Under such supervision of municipal affairs the administration of the city is in every way efficient.

Spring Valley Fire Department. April 18, 1874, a call was extended to the citizens of the village to meet at the office of J. T. Casey, April 25, 1874, for the purpose of organizing a hook and ladder company. This was duly organized and officers elected as follows: President, N. M. Lewis; vice-president, E. S. Bumstead; treasurer, E. W. Thayer; foreman, W. H. Lloyd; first assistant, S. P. Steiner; second assistant, P. W. Carr.

May 12, 1879, the company was organized under a new charter with the following officers: President, A. B. Burleson; vice-president, A. R. Holman; treasurer, C. F. Kumm; secretary, L. A. Kinsbury; foreman, A. E. Dickinson; first assistant, L. W. Ross,

man; second assistant, E. W. Thayer.

April 25, 1885, a village ordinance was passed organizing the fire department.

A reorganization was effected November 19, 1898, with S. M. Wilder as fire marshal and H. B. Turner as secretary, and at the annual meeting May 8, 1899, the following officers were elected: Fire marshal, Ira Judd; secretary, H. B. Turner; treasurer, Levi Watson; captains, cart 1, Joe Whitley; cart 2, Bert Olds; hook and ladder company, William D. Ingalls.

The present officers are as follows: Fire marshal and chief, W. N. Kingsley; treasurer, S. M. Wilder; clerk, S. C. Pattridge; captains, cart 1, K. T. Soland; cart 2, W. H. Kellogg; hook and ladder company, Sam Gammell.

Waterworks and Lights. The waterworks and street lighting system in Spring Valley both date from 1893. The lights were turned on July 23, 1893. The pumps at the waterworks plant were started September 13, 1893, and the water was turned into the mains the next day. The contract to build the waterworks had been awarded to James A. Train for $10,483, on May 26, 1893; and the franchise to the Spring Valley Electric Light and Investment Company had been granted May 6, 1893, to extend for a period of thirty years. The electric light company furnished power for the waterworks under contract until 1912, when the city arranged to furnish its own power. An abundance of pure water is a question of vital importance to a growing city, and in this respect Spring Valley is indeed fortunate. The supply is ample for all needs and is pumped from an inexhaustible natural spring of pure, sparkling water. There are over four miles of mains, forty hydrants and about four hundred private taps. A new steel water tower and a new pumping station were erected the past year at a cost of $10,000, and the present system is one of the best and most economical in the state and is being operated at a saving of about $1,500 per annum over the old system. The 100-foot water tower gives a natural gravity pressure of sixty-five pounds, which is ample for all needs and furnishes the city with its electric fire alarm system—excellent fire protection.

The Spring Valley Commercial Club was organized March 28, 1907, when about twenty business men of the village gathered for the purpose of perfecting plans for the "boosting" of Spring Valley. J. C. Halbkat explained the object of the meeting and W. C. Webber, of Rochester, spoke of what had been done along similar lines in other places. After a discussion of the needs of the village, J. C. Halbkat was elected temporary chairman and W. D. Hart temporary secretary. W. D. Hart, Archie Jorris and J. H. Halbkat were appointed a soliciting committee, and Frank Rafferty, Al Conklin and E. B. Davis a committee on by-laws.

April 9 the following officers were elected: President, Frank Rafferty; vice-president, Will D. Hart; secretary, Sidney J. Huntley; treasurer, W. W. Bontecou. These officers are still serving. A few days later the following committee were appointed: Executive, W. D. Hart, Roy Viall, John H. Halbkat; general arrangements and business affairs, Dr. W. N. Kendrick, Thomas Frankson, Sidney J. Huntley; claims and accounts, J. N. Graling, W. W. Bonticou, Edwin Kilburn; manufactories, B. W. Huntley, M. E. Molstad, C. E. Lawrence; railroads and freights, John Leuthold, S. H. Hale, E. B. Davis; city affairs, P. R. Jorris, E. L. Sheldahl, E. G. Washburn; insurance and legislation, S. C. Pattridge, Everett Jones, Frank J. Harris; good roads, Burdett Thayer, John Leuthold, E. W. Thayer.

The club has done everything in its power to boost Spring Valley. It has held street fairs, with premiums, for the encouragement of every industry possible to the county and with plenty diversion to attract the people from all directions. It has held numerous market days, pumpkins shows, horse shows, cow shows, exhibits of various kinds, harvest festivals, free auctions, entertainments and "Booster" days. It encouraged the location of the agricultural school here. It likewise secured the location of the neckyoke factory. It encouraged the establishment of the Dan Patch Air Line route through the place, and has projected an electric line to Cresco, Ia. It has worked for better passenger schedules and better freight rates. It has helped keep up the race track, the Athletic Park and the band. It has encouraged better roads and worked for better insurance rates and better fire protection in public buildings. It has given Fourth of July celebrations. It has endeavored to secure just telephone rates. It has entertained many distinguished men as individuals, as well as such bodies as the Manufacturers' and Jobbers' Association of Minneapolis, the Old Soldiers, Sailors and Settlers of Fillmore County, and the Fillmore County Business Men's Association. In fact, in every line possible it has advocated and stood for the best progress in Spring Valley life.

Spring Valley Driving Park Association. This institution was invoked into existence during the Centennial year, a lot of ground was leased and improvements made, a half-mile track graded, and several races were put on during the few years of the existence of the society; but the hard times dissuaded the proprietors from investing any deeper after the $800, which the amusement cost, had been expended. The present society, the Spring Valley Driving Association, was organized in 1893. The officers: President, Dr. F. W. Thornhill; secretary and treasurer, Charles Smith; directors, L. B. Henderson, Charles Lawrence and H. R. Lupien.

Spring Valley Public Library. A public library for Spring Valley had long been advocated privately, but during the summer of 1901 several public meetings were held to discuss the subject. The enthusiasm shown was very gratifying and it was decided to launch the project at once. The business men agreed to finance the undertaking if provision was made for a rest room for their patrons. Accordingly the lower part of the Lawrence Building was rented. The front part was fitted up for a rest room and the back part for a reading room and library. On October 12, 1901, these rooms were opened to the public. The library part looked very bare, as there were no books. The reading table was, however, well provided with magazines given by friends. The library board at its first meeting subscribed for thirty dollars' worth of magazines. The local county and weekly papers were kindly contributed. The first library board was as follows: B. F. Farmer, president; J. N. Graling, vice-president; F. E. Lurton, secretary; Mrs. O. E. Thayer, collector. Nellie M. Grant was the first librarian. A book shower was given that week, which placed 112 books on the shelves, and $15 in cash was handed to the book committee. The People's Church gave the cause a big boost by giving their library of 317 volumes. The W. C. T. U. followed with thirty-six volumes, and private individuals gave ninety-four volumes. The Congregational Sunday school gave a sixteen-volume set of Dickens. The W. C. T. U., Epworth League, Christian Endeavor Society and nearly every organization in town vied with each other in giving benefits for the library. The books, coming from all sources, when placed together made quite a showing, and with the fifty volumes from the state library afforded a pleasing variety. That the public appreciated the library was evident from the circulation of 7,103 volumes the first year. The rest room patrons increased steadily from week to week.

After the first year the library was supported by a 1-mill tax until the Carnegie library was built. The library board, not content to have the library kept in rented buildings, took measures to secure a permanent home. F. E. Lurton, secretary, was instructed to open correspondence with Andrew Carnegie, and at the request of President Graling and Secretary Lurton, Governor Van Sant, Senator Clapp and Representative Tawney furnished the library with recommendations to Mr. Carnegie. In April, 1904, the good news came that Mr. Carnegie would give $8,000 upon consideration of the usual tax and donation of site. To select a site proved no easy matter, but the council finally decided upon the present site and transferred the control of the same to the library board in January, 1904. The Carnegie library was

erected during the summer of 1904 and was opened December 1, 1904.

During these early years much gratuitous work was done by the faithful members of the library board, but no one was so conspicuously generous of his time as J. N. Graling, who, as chairman of the building committee and janitor of Carnegie library for the first year, served without recompense. Some of the more conspicuous contributions to the library have been as follows: In the year 1903 an excellent gift was made to the library by Mr. and Mrs. John Leuthold. This consisted of a thirty-two-volume set of histories, including Menzel's "Germany," Green's "England," Prescott's "Mexico," etc. R. W. Sears, of Chicago, who had formerly lived in Spring Valley, gave thirty-four volumes. The committee were allowed to select these. In this same year the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school gave ninety-one volumes, and the W. C. T. U. gave several volumes. In 1904 the Congregational Sunday school gave sixty-seven volumes, the public school gave 164 volumes, Mrs. S. M. Steffens twenty-five volumes, J. B. Viall nine volumes, and E. G. H. Adams quite a collection. There were many additions from other individuals. In 1905 the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school gave nine volumes, the Up-To-Date Club gave four volumes, the Tourist Club eleven volumes, G. E. Downs eighteen volumes, Rev. E. J. Dunham several volumes. In the succeeding years some particularly good additions deserving special mention have been made through special sources. The Up-To-Date Club has given about twenty volumes of poetical works of the best American and English authors. The Tourist Club has given an excellent set of commentaries on Shakespeare and an excellent volume of his complete works. Mrs. C. W. Taylor gave bound volumes of "Harper's Monthly" and the "Outlook." The latter were an excellent addition to the reference department and are in quite constant use. Nellie Grant gave, among other standard works of fiction and non-fiction, two particularly excellent works, viz., Howell's "Heroines of Fiction" and a Dickens Dictionary. Mrs. Susan Farmer gave quite a collection of valuable books. E. G. H. Adams gave a thirty-volume set of Collins' works. Lucile Schraut gave fifteen volumes and Alfred Conklin about twenty volumes. In 1907 the high school gave sixty-five volumes. In 1911 Burdick Post, G. A. R., of Spring Valley, gave a valuable collection, consisting principally of the "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies of the War of the Rebellion." A rental shelf of recent fiction is maintained by the Up-To-Date Club and these books are eventually given to the library and become fourteen-day books, free to all.

The library has sustained a severe loss through the death of

two very earnest and active supporters, who were also members of the library board. These were Dunbar Leach, who passed on in December, 1910, and S. M. Wilder, who passed on in June, 1911.

There have been three librarians. Nellie M. Grant, of Spring Valley, Minn., resigned on account of poor health in August, 1907. Her successor, Eva G. Stevens, resigned in October, 1909, to become Mrs. Cyrus H. Vanderhoef, of Baraboo, Wis. Emma M. Hart, a university graduate, is the present librarian.

On the main floor of the library building and adjoining the reading room is a pleasant room which is used for board meetings. This room is also used by the public, by people waiting between trains, and by people from the country and is greatly appreciated by them.

The library contains about 2,500 volumes, which it loans. During the year of 1910 there were about 10,000 loans made and there is an average of about forty readers a day.

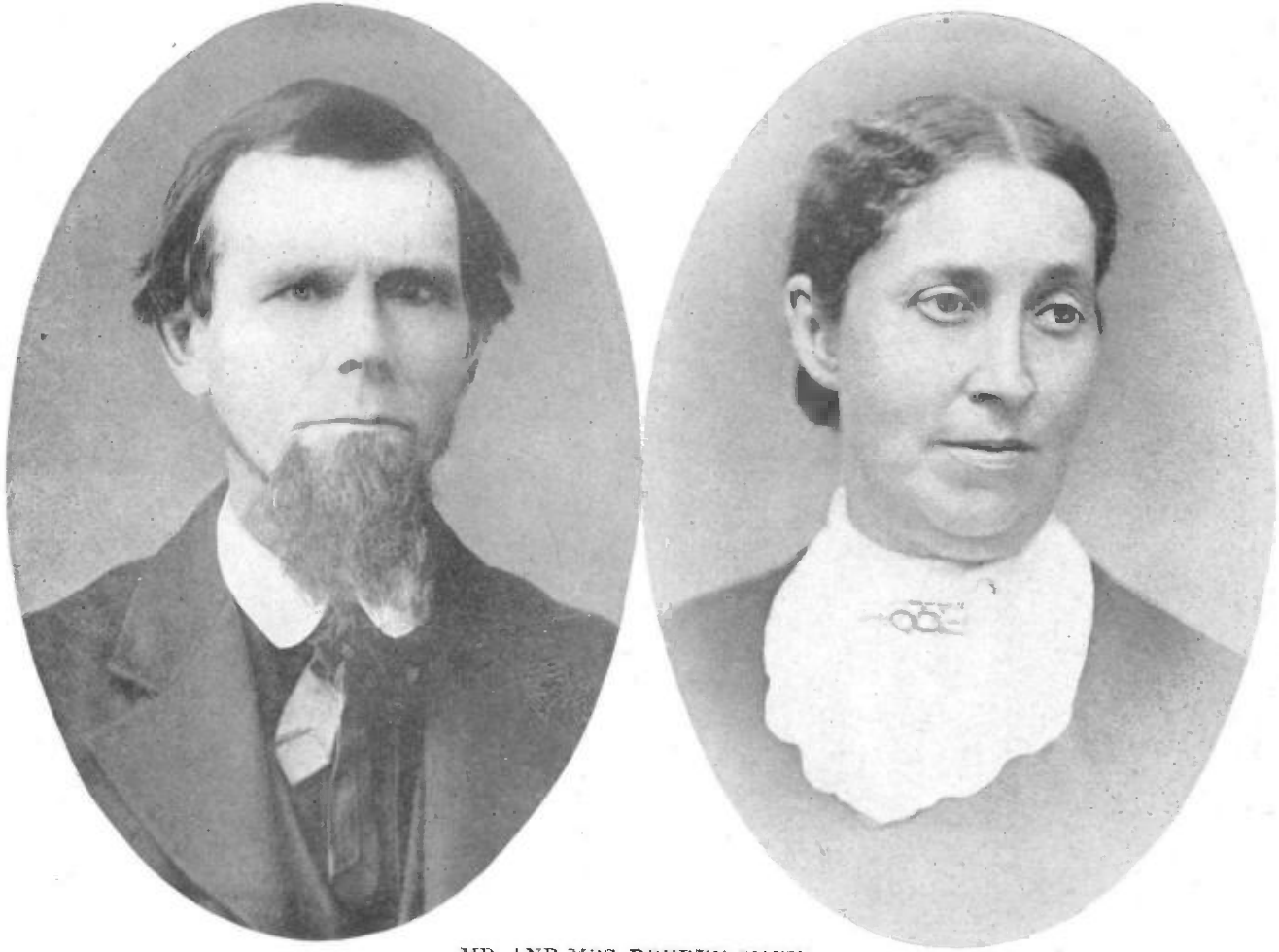
The library is fortunate in having a definite annual income, although there are still many needs in the line of binding of magazines for reference and the like which are still to be met.

The basement of the library building is used as a rest room, also as an assembly room for different organizations. The Civic League, Commercial Club and others use it. The ladies of the different aid societies of the different churches use it for their sales.

The library has had five presidents: B. F. Farmer, J. N. Graling, Dunbar Leach, S. M. Wilder and Dr. George McGillvray.

The present library board is as follows: Dr. George McGillvray, president; Mrs. Frances Graling, secretary; Lyle Hamline, Mrs. Emily Lloyd, L. M. Sturdivant, Mrs. Flora Thayer, Mrs. Orinda Thayer, H. T. Tolmie and Mrs. Nellie Washburn.—Compiled jointly by Nellie M. Grant and Emma M. Hart.

Spring Valley Public Waiting Room. The basement of the Carnegie library building is used as a ladies' rest room. There are tables here on which lunches may be eaten. It is largely patronized by people from the country and by people waiting between trains. The first quarters for this purpose were in the old Lawrence Building, in 1901, where the Spring Valley public library was also first started. The rest room was at first financed by the business men of the town. Since 1904 it is supported from the annual fund of $800 raised for the support of the library. For some time after the Carnegie building was erected the committee room on the main floor and adjoining the reading room was used for this purpose. Later it was delegated principally to the basement, greatly to the advantage of the library, as it gave better opportunity for quiet reading and study, while, on



MR. AND MRS. DRYDEN SMITH

the other hand, there is in the basement freedom for adults to visit together and for children to work off their restlessness with less restraint. The rest room is well patronized. The committee room on the main floor is, however, still used by many for quiet waiting and is greatly appreciated.—Compiled jointly by Nellie M. Grant and Emma M. Hart.

The Spring Valley Cemetery Association was organized in 1860 by E. McCurtrie, Asa Billings, Willard Allen, Cordello Wilkins, S. A. Hunt and T. B. Johnson, the latter of whom was appointed undertaker and sexton and retained the place for nineteen years, burying more than 250 people in that time. Four acres were bought for $100, and the plat was later enlarged. The present officers are: President, S. C. Pattridge; secretary, H. T. Tolmie; treasurer, C. H. Smith. The cemetery is well cared for and makes a most suitable place of repose for the departed.

SPRING VALLEY TOWNSHIP.

Spring Valley, on the western border of Fillmore county, is near the headwaters of several branches of the Root river and lacks a section and a half of occupying a full government township. Sumner is on the north, Fillmore on the east, Bloomfield on the south and Mower county on the west.

Bear creek winds in and out of the northern tier of sections. Deer creek meanders across the town from west to east, north of the center. Spring Valley creek cuts diagonally through the southeastern part of the town, there being also several smaller creeks.

When the settlers reached this town they found a fine open rolling prairie in the southern tier of sections, land somewhat more uneven and covered with light timber or brush in the middle tiers, and heavily timbered land in the northern tier. Even to the present day there are numerous timber claims of from two to twenty acres each in the northern part of the township.

The scenery in several parts of the township is most attractive. A spot of especial beauty is located on Deer creek in section eleven. Here the stream winds around from the west, and striking a perpendicular limestone ledge one hundred feet high, is reflected toward the north, after which it turns to the south, thus forming a loop, coming back to the east side of the ledge less than seventy feet from where its deflection occurs. The loop around the limestone ridge is a mile and a half in extent, and during this detour the river drops thirty feet. The ledge itself has sheer sides and is covered at the top with trees, thus adding greatly to the picturesqueness of the scenery.

Early Settlement. Evidence as to the earliest settlement of Spring Valley township is unsatisfactory and conflicting. It is apparent that several of the early settlers came on foot, selected their claims and then went after their families, sometimes not returning until a year or so later, thus causing several different dates to be given as the time of their settlement here. Then, too, a number of the earliest settlers stayed but a short time and moved away before proving up on their claims, leaving so slight an impression that not even their first names have been preserved. A few settlers evidently came to Spring Valley in 1852.

1852—Simeon Phillips first staked off his claim where the Crawford Kellogg place is now located. He also located another claim the following year. Finally he sold out and went to Bloomfield. His shanty is supposed to have been the first in the town. A Mr. Johnson claimed the north half of section twenty-six, but the following year disposed of it to the Lowe brothers. Little of him is known except that he was an American, that he came here from Iowa, and returned from whence he came. Mr. Delling that year took the northeast quarter of section thirty-four, but soon sold to Mr. Cartlich and transferred himself to the section line of twenty-four and twenty-seven. His family, it is not unlikely, was the first in Spring Valley. After a time he removed to Frankford, in Mower county. In May of that year a Mr. Brown took the northeast quarter of section twenty-three and without having made any improvements sold to Norman W. Kingsley the following year. Of his previous or subsequent history nothing is known here. Henry W. Perkins visited this place in May, 1852, and selected a place and drove his claim stakes in the southeast quarter of section twenty-three, and then returned to some rented land in Iowa. In September he came with a team, bringing his wife, put up a shanty, and cut some hay, but returned to Iowa in the fall. He came back the next spring and began to break up his land.

1853—This year there was quite an increment to the primitive infant colony, and some of the settlers are here mentioned without much regard to the order of their arrival. Norman W. Kingsley, of New York state, came from Wisconsin in June, and the available place that filled his desire was in the west part of section twenty-two. Here he made a farm and a home, where he remained until called to his eternal home in 1875. There were three sons: Solomon, Charles, and N. W. Henry Kibler came this spring from Virginia and settled in sections twenty-four and twenty-five, on which he afterwards built a sawmill. He was a noted man in his time, a representative in the legislature, and with metropolitan aspirations laid out a city and called it "Liberty." He moved to Fillmore township, where he died.

Dr. J. Early, the father-in-law of Kibler, came with him and drove his stakes east of the Kibler claim. The doctor had quite a reputation as a medical man, but did not make many improvements and after a while removed to Iowa, where he afterward died.

Calvin E. Huntley, Sr., commonly called "Cal." Huntley, settled in the fall of 1853 and gathered a crop of hay, which he utilized by forming a shelter for the coming winter.

A man by the name of Deering came some time in 1853 and staked a claim in section thirty-three, but did not remain many months.

Zara A. Warner passed through this town in 1852, and deeming it a goodly land, resolved to make it his future home while he remained in this world, and so in 1853 he came back with his wife and five sons and daughters and pre-empted 160 acres in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight. Some of the children afterwards secured land in their own right. Part of Mr. Warner's claim is now within the city limits. His original cabin was destroyed by the wind and he erected his second cabin near where the barn of Frank Rafferty, Jr., is now located. Thomas C. Watson had a claim east of Warner's, which two years afterwards he sold to the Kelloggs. He had a store in Spring Valley at one time. His brother Josiah was at the Big Spring in 1853, but soon sold out there. T. F. Huntley, a native of New York, came from Allamakee county, Iowa, arrived in June, 1853, and took his claim where the village now is the same month. He brought his family in July and fixed up a hay shanty at first.

David Broxhelm and William Baker, two Englishmen, drove through from Dodge county, Wisconsin, in 1853, and Baker surrounded some land in section thirty-four, but in a few months sold to F. Kummer, who also arrived that year. Broxholm's territory was in section twenty-five.

Others whose names have not been preserved may have arrived at about the same time.

1854—In 1854 there began the real influx of population and the land was taken rapidly.

T. M. Chapman, from Burlington, Ill., came in November, 1854, and got a place in section thirty.

T. B. Johnson came here December 15, 1854, from Ohio via Iowa, and on July 9, 1855, he brought his family, consisting of a wife and five children, and his land was on section thirty-five. He put up a hewn log house, which was an unusual luxury in those days. He bought two hogs which weighed between two and three hundred pounds for $75, so that as long ago as that there were corners on pork. Mr. Johnson was the first mail carrier,

bringing it up from Carimona. Winona was the most convenient market then.

Early Events. Flora, daughter of Frederick and Caroline Kummer, was born January 5, 1854. Mary Belle, daughter of J. B. Thayer, was born November 11, 1855. Orin A. Huntley was also born at a very early day in the cabin of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin E. Huntley.

Hattie H. Kingsley, daughter of Norman W. Kingsley, Sr., died in the fall of 1856, and was buried on her father's farm, two miles east of the village.

The first marriage in the township was that of John M. Smith and Julietta Kingsley.

The first cemetery in the town was a lot vacated by the village company between blocks twenty-eight and twenty-nine, but the remains at first deposited there were in the sixties removed to a new cemetery which had been established.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Spring Valley township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: February 19, Edward Buck, 1; May 5, Samuel Jolly, 2; May 8, Joseph Carter, 1; May 13, John L. Green, 3; May 30, John L. Green, 4; May 30, Russell A. Steere, 3-4; May 13, Russell A. Steere, 3; May 25, John Cozad, 12; May 28, Charles F. Hardy, 3; May 30, William Tuttle, 2-3; May 30, Joseph S. Brownell, 4-5; June 1, Augustus M. Dyson, 27; June 1, Nathaniel Hall, 1; June 2, Cephas Smith, 4; June 6, David Steere, 4; June 8, George J. Cravath, 2-3; June 11, Samuel M. Early, 24; June 13, Isaac Stewart, Jr., 5; June 16, Joseph B. Thayer, 33-34; June 16, Ed. Willard, 30; June 22, Elbridge A. True, 30; June 26, Gerry Burdick, 3; June 26, Isaac N. Cummings, 11; June 26, Henry C. Hart, 1; June 26, Sargeant Kingsbury, 3-10; June 26, John M. Smith, 13; July 4, Henry Low, 26; July 4, Josiah K. Watson, 26-27; August 3, Daniel Scoville, Jr., 2; August 30, William Collins, 2; September 11, John S. Crane, 31; September 11, Peter G. Tilton, 30; September 15, Harrison A. Billings, 12; September 15, Joseph Cartlich, 24; September 21, Soloman W. Kingsley, 23; September 21, Thomas C. Watson, 27; October 2, John Jolly, 10; October 9, Henry Kibber, 24-25; October 10, Legrand Lloyd, 11-12; October 11, Esra Scoville, 21-28; October 12, Elon Crane, 11-12; October 12, James Ives, 12; October 12, John Kleckler, 26; October 15, William S. Hill, 17; October 17, Wallace T. Belden, 10; October 17, Isaac H. Eaton, 29; October 17, Niels Johnson, 28; October 17, Eleaser Root, 21; October 17, Orlin Root, 29; October 17, Merit Warner, 28-33; October 17, Nelson Warner, 28; October 17, Cor-

dello Wilkins, 33; October 18, John Cropoot, 10; October 19, Jesse Cartlich, 34-26-27; October 19, Charles H. Chamberlin, 7; October 20, James G. Chase, 33; October 20, Simeon Philips, 22-27; October 20, Dryden Smith, 34; October 26, Augustus A. Burdick, 29; October 29, Sylvester Treat, 21; November 9, David Broxholm, 25-26-35; November 9, Allen B. Hosmer, 4; November 16, John Hill, 24; November 16, Frederick Kummer, 35; November 16, Horace J. Vesey, 15; December 10, Jesse C. French, 9; December 11, William Gilbert, 35; December 21, Gilbert S. Benham, 33; December 21, Lyman Lamb, 33; December 21, Milton J. Viall, 32; December 21, William T. Wilkins, 32.

Political. The town government was organized May 11, 1858, at which time the following officers were elected: Supervisors, W. T. Wilkins (chairman), T. M. Chapman and T. B. Johnson; town clerk, E. McMurtrie; assessor, S. Phillips; collector, A. B. Allen; overseer of the poor, W. A. Potter; constables, A. P. Allen and S. P. Dean; justices of the peace, W. Allen and E. Wilkins; overseer of highways, C. A. Cady.

During the war the town levied several taxes to pay bounties for soldiers to fill the quota. The amounts paid were from $300 to $400 to each.

FORMER VILLAGES.

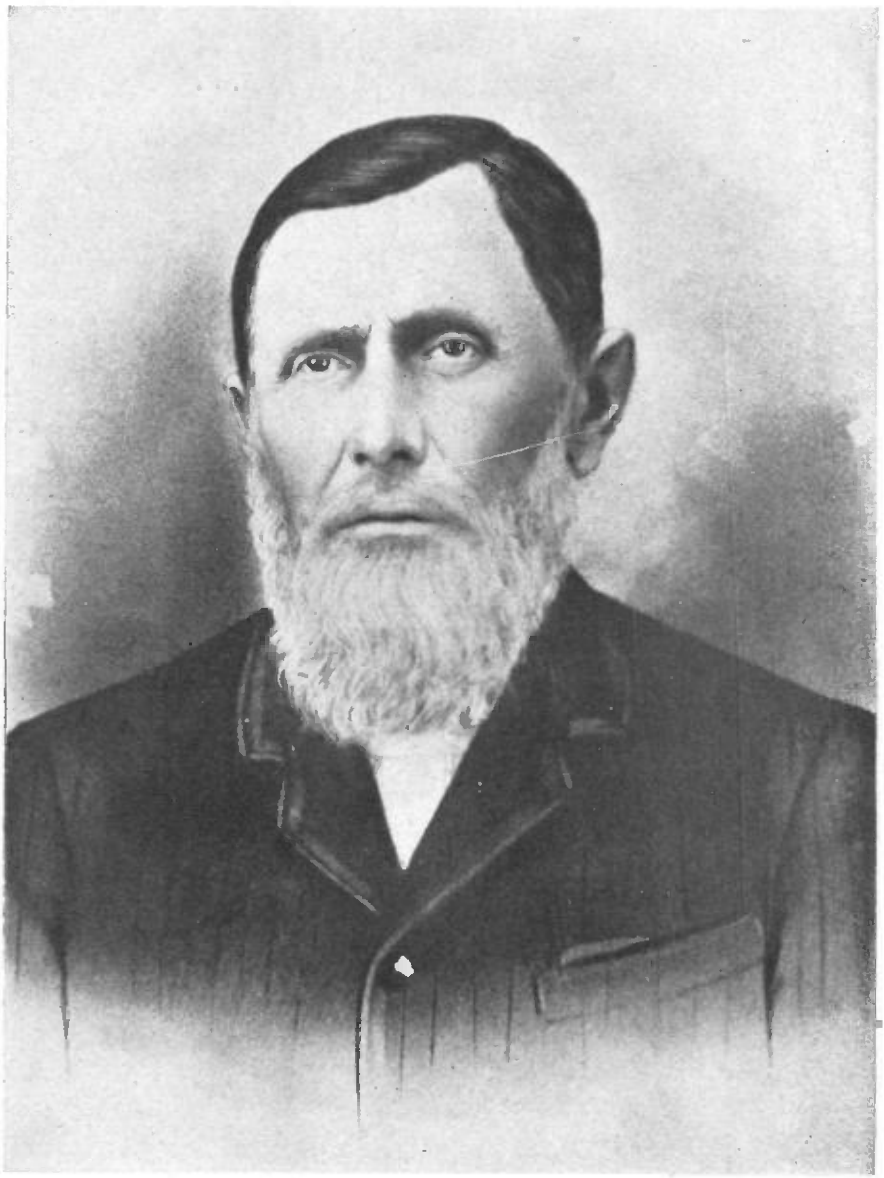
Limetown or Lime City is the name of a locality in the center of section four, which is so called on account of the lime burned here. A sawmill was put in, probably as early as 1854, and was on the northeast quarter of the section, on Bear Creek, from which it procured its power. It was commenced by Frank Tebot, who constructed a dam across the river and secured a head of twelve feet. He soon sold to Mr. Frazer, and in 1855 the dam went out. It was bought by Mr. Young, who replaced the structure, but that also was carried down stream. In 1857 Mr. Scoville put up a steam sawmill on the west side of the creek, with a circular saw that could rip out 3,000 feet of lumber in a day. It was sold to Mr. Morrison and finally moved to the Minnesota valley. In 1860, or thereabouts, T. J. Murphy put up a steam sawmill across the creek, with a circular saw and a forty-five-horsepower engine that could saw 6,000 feet of lumber a day. This was purchased in 1869 by L. G. Odell, who run it for several years and sold the property to Charles Gordon. The boiler was sold and transferred to the stone mill in Sumner. Olds' sawmill was built in 1868 by N. Olds & Son. It has a story and a half with a basement, is 20x41 feet, and a wing 12x41 feet. Its location was on Deer creek and it was operated by water, had a circular saw, and could deliver 2,500 feet of lumber in a day. A

three-foot dam secured a fall of twelve feet. In the upper story was machinery for manufacturing wagons and sleds and for repairing. In 1881 the water wheel became permanently disabled and a portable steam engine was brought into requisition. This was about a half mile below the site of "Beldena." During the war T. J. Murray commenced burning lime here and did a good business, employing in this work and in the mill quite a force of men, and in 1868 he sold out to L. G. Odell, who built a "draw kiln" and went into the business quite extensively.

Liberty. A city of this name sprung up in the mind of Henry Kibler, who had a farm in section twenty-four, and it was so far materialized as to be platted and recorded. The enthusiastic proprietor had a few goods for sale in his house, and this was the nearest approach to its becoming a city that it ever made.

Beldena. One of the early enterprises of the town of Spring Valley was the inception of a village with the above appellation. Its location was most admirable, on the southeastern part of section nine, on Deer Creek. The proprietor and projector was Dr. W. P. Belden, a young man of means and energy, who commenced with business-like methods to make improvements. A dam was thrown across the river to secure a water-power, and the village was regularly surveyed and platted, but never recorded. Quite a number of families were attracted to the spot, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop and a store were started, and everything seemed to conduce toward the success of the undertaking. But various untoward circumstances and the rivalry of neighboring villages that were candidates for public favor and patronage were too powerful to be overcome and so this project was abandoned. The dam was washed out in 1858. It is said that Dr. Belden lost $3,000 in this venture.

Deer Creek Postoffice was ushered into existence in 1856, with W. S. Hill as postmaster, and the mail was opened at his house on section seventeen. The name "Arcade" was at first sent in by Mr. Hill to the postoffice authorities, but that was rejected and Deer Creek substituted. In about four years it was discontinued.



TALLAK BROKKEN

MRS. TALLAK BROKKEN

CHAPTER XIX.

HARMONY VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP.

Location and Advantages of the Village—Early Stores—Harmony in 1882—Harmony in 1890—Municipal History—Harmony Township—First Settlers and Early Events—Organization—Postoffices—Big Springs—Greenfield Village.

Harmony is located in one of the best farming communities in Fillmore county, with a large trade territory on all sides. Corn, stock and small grain are the principal products raised here. Fine roads lead to the village from all directions, and with its good stores and markets Harmony is one of the important trading points in southern Minnesota.

Harmony is one of the principal villages on the line of the Reno-Preston division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It is well laid out, with a hustling, well-kept business center, and many fine residence streets. Its healthful situation, its moral and progressive spirit, its fraternities, its fine waterworks and complete telephone service, its village park, its excellent churches and its well equipped schools, all make it a most desirable place in which to live, and its first-class trading facilities make it the shipping and purchasing point of a thriving country district for miles around.

Among the features of Harmony life may be mentioned three churches, a newspaper, two hotels, a city and town hall combined, a fine new hall erected by the Woodmen, two banks, a roller mill, lumber yard, three elevators, stock-shipping facilities, a good postoffice, one department store and three general stores which are also important enough to deserve the name of department stores, a drug store, two hardware stores, many farm implement and farm machinery establishments, a photograph gallery, several liveries, a marble shop, four restaurants, several grocery, clothing and furniture establishments, and the usual other business activities found in a place of this size.

The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, of Harmony, was organized December 2, 1882, with the following officers and directors: President, A. Daniels; secretary, Tollef Sanderson; treasurer, Tallak Brokken; Berg Olson, Henry Dean, G. A. Maland, Edward Burnham and John McCallum. The company

grew rapidly and attained much favor. During the first fifteen years of its existence the average assessment per year was but 70 cents a year on each $1,000 insurance. The present condition of the company is shown from the report rendered December 31, 1911: Policies in force December 31, 1910, 922, amount, $2,343,930; policies issued during the year 1911, 171, amount, $483,380; total, 1,093, amount, $2,827,210; deduct policies expired and ceased to be in force during year, 169, amount, $373,540; policies in force at the end of the year (December 31, 1911), 924, amount, $2,453,670; loss claims presented during the year 1911, 49; loss claims paid in full and adjusted, 43, amount, $3,579.83; grand total in force December 31, 1911, $2,453,670. The present officers are: President, H. E. Benson; secretary, Thad. T. Brokken; treasurer, Tollef Sanderson; Alex McKay, S. F. Miner, Owen Hughes, B. H. Benson, Carl Lawstuen.

Early History. The original owners of the land on which Harmony is located were Edwin Ellis, Rev. T. Larson, who had a charge near the village, and Thomas Ryan. The railroad came through in 1879, and the village was started at once.

The first merchant in Harmony was F. M. Trogstad, who erected a building in the fall of 1879 and kept a line of general merchandise. Later William Bollman went into partnership with Trogstad. Still later Bollman became sole owner and put in a stock of drugs.

The second store was erected by P. T. Larson in the winter of 1879-80. He kept a line of hardware. In 1892 the firm became Larson & Fradd, Oluf Fradd being the partner. Thus the firm remained until 1902, when Geo. Carnege, a land dealer, purchased it, and in turn sold to Hallesy & Flatestole. Later it went into the hands of Applen Brothers, who are the present owners.

The third store was erected in 1880 by Halvor Bruflodt, as a meat market. It was not used for this purpose and was soon sold to P. T. Larson.

Tallak Brokken soon followed in 1880 by moving his store from near the church south of the village to the present site of Harmony. He owned this store until his death in 1910.

In the spring of 1881 Thomas Thompson started a general store. It remained as such until 1884, when J. A. Lund was taken into the firm, and it became Thompson & Lund. In 1892 it became Lund & Rothe, and continued as such until 1901, when J. A. Lund became sole owner as at present.

A photographer named Thompson came to the village in 1880 and remained about five months.

J. L. Urheim came in the spring of 1882 and opened a drug store. He erected a new store about 1886 and soon after disposed of the business to Mr. Larson and the building to Mr.

Sanderson. Larson soon afterward died and K. S. Olson took his stock. Sanderson sold to Mr. Brightman, who started a hardware store in 1893. In 1900 Sanderson again bought the store, but soon sold to E. F. Kidder, the present owner.

Ole and Gullick Maland started a hardware store in 1886 on the present site of the postoffice. In connection with the store there was an implement department in charge of Henry Nupson. Soon afterward he became sheriff of Fillmore county. The Maland Brothers sold to Gray & Williams (Andres and Martin), and after passing through several hands the store was discontinued.

T. F. Hallisy and M. McCarty started a general store in 1890. It remained as such until 1902, when Mr. Hallisy sold his interest to Mr. McCarty and started a hardware store. The hardware store was purchased by Applen Brothers in 1911, and Mr. Hallisy is at present conducting a grocery store and restaurant.

Hans Hanson and S. B. Johnson started a general store in 1890. The partnership lasted about four years, when Mr. Hanson sold to Mr. Johnson. Mr. Hanson then became a member of the firm of Hanson & Nuland. Three years later, upon the death of one of the partners, the firm became Hanson & Larson. Later Mr. Hanson became sole owner and still conducts the business. Mr. Johnson conducted his store for about two years and then sold out to O. N. Thundale, devoting all his time to the lumber business, which he had previously established. Later he went into the clothing business, which he still conducts.

The first hotel was erected by Charles Thompson, who sold to J. B. Pulver, whose son is still the hotelkeeper in the village.

Harmony in 1882. As soon as the railroad station was located in Harmony and the stores began to open the village became a trading center, and gradually houses for residences were erected. In 1882 the village had a number of residences, two general stores, one hardware and a grocery store, a postoffice, a wagon shop, a shoe shop, a blacksmith shop, a lumber yard and two elevators with a capacity of 12,000 bushels each.

Harmony in 1890. According to T. F. Hallisy, the following business firms were operating in Harmony in 1890: Hallisy & McCarty (T. F. and M.), general store; Fred M. Trogstad, general store; Hanson & Johnson (Hans and S. B.), general store; Thundale & Hanson (O. N. and Hans), general store; Ben Larson, drug store; Oluf Fradd, blacksmith; P. T. Larson, hardware.

Municipal History. October 14, 1895, the county commissioners authorized the people of Harmony village to incorporate and named as inspectors of election Tollef Sanderson, A. G. Gray and J. A. Lund. The first annual election was held March

10, 1896, with John Jacobson and Thomas Ryan as judges of election.

1896—President, Samuel Aaberg; trustees, Tollef Sanderson, George McKittrick, Eugene Barnes; treasurer, Samuel Johnson; recorder, R. R. Barnes; justices, Albert G. Johnson, T. J. Johnson; constables, Emmett Ryan, Ole G. Johnson. This year a lot was purchased and the lock-up erected. A few street lights were also installed. L. A. Barnes was appointed fire warden.

1897—President, Tollef Sanderson; trustees, T. F. Hallisy, A. G. Gray, O. N. Thundale; treasurer, S. B. Johnson; recorder, R. R. Barnes; justice, Samuel Aaberg; constable, J. E. Linderman. April 28, 1897, they decided to put a sixty-foot tower over the village pump.

1898—President, Thomas Ryan; trustees, P. T. Larson, Samuel Aaberg, Fritz Achatz; treasurer, S. B. Johnson; recorder, R. R. Barnes; justice, A. G. Johnson; constable, A. Harstad.

1899—President, O. N. Thundale; trustees, T. Sanderson, James Linderman, Ole Fradd; treasurer, S. B. Johnson; recorder, J. F. Jones; justice, R. W. Daniels; constable, F. Linderman.

1900—President, E. W. Pust; trustees, T. F. Hallisy, Charles Anderson, T. E. Wrenn; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, Edward F. Kidder; justice, A. G. Johnson; constables, M. J. Ryan, F. J. Linderman.

At a special election held October 16, 1900, it was voted to erect a system of waterworks to be owned by the city. At a special election held December 20, 1900, bonds to the amount of $7,000 were voted for waterworks.

1901—President, John A. Lund; trustees, T. A. Sorenson, Tollef Sanderson, O. N. Thundale; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, Ole Larson; justice, E. B. Hartwell; constables, C. B. Hellickson, F. J. Linderman.

1902—President, O. N. Thundale; trustees, T. F. Hallisy, E. W. Pust, A. E. Barnes; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, Ole Larson; justice, A. G. Johnson; constable, T. E. Wrenn. In June and July the well was drilled for the village waterworks.

1903—President, T. F. Hallisy; trustees, R. W. Daniels, William Bollman, E. W. Pust; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, H. C. Horsrud; justice, L. O. Haugen; constable, F. J. Linderman.

1904—President, L. O. Haugen; trustees, M. McCarty; J. S. Jacobson, William Bollman; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, H. C. Horsrud; justice, A. G. Johnson; constable, T. E. Wrenn.

1905—President, A. G. Johnson; trustees, M. McCarty, R. W. Daniels, James S. Jacobson; treasurer, P. A. McKay; recorder, H. C. Horsrud; constable, Samuel Dahl.

1906—President, O. R. Perkins; trustees, Nels N. Nelson; K. D.

Olson, H. Daniels; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, P. M. Oistad; justice, A. G. Johnson; constable, C. D. McCarty.

1907—President, O. R. Perkins; trustees, H. A. Daniels, M. C. Willford, H. E. Hanson; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, L. O. Haugen; justice, Owen Harstad; constable, O. J. Wolstad.

1908—President, H. A. Daniels; trustees, T. F. Hallisy, Iver Halvorson, H. F. Jones; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, C. Selvig; justices, William Bollman, E. F. Kidder; constables, C. D. McCarty, F. P. Mark. At the spring election the people of the village voted to reincorporate.

1909—President, H. A. Daniels; trustees, T. F. Hallisy, Iver Halvorson, H. F. Jones; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, C. Selvig; justice, M. McCarty; constable, F. P. Mark.

1910—President, H. C. Horsrud; trustees, R. L. Riceland, K. D. Olson, T. F. Ruddy; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, Joel Wolsted; justices, E. F. Kidder, P. B. Ramer; constable, F. P. Mark.

1911—President, H. C. Horsrud; trustees, R. Riceland, J. E. Linderman, T. F. Ruddy; treasurer, C. B. Hellickson; recorder, J. Wolsted; justice, E. F. Kidder; constables, J. E. Linderman, F. Linderman.

1912—President, H. A. Daniels; trustees, T. O. Applen, P. M. Oistad, William McGee; treasurer, R. W. Daniels; recorder, Joel Wolsted; constables, F. P. Mark, N. Nelson; justices, A. G. Johnson, E. F. Kidder. The matter of street lights is now being agitated, and for this purpose a trustee-at-large was elected in the person of O. N. Thundale. Owing to the fact that Mr. Daniels is interested in the mill from which the power will be derived he refused to serve as mayor, and H. C. Horsrud holds over. P. M. Oistad refused to serve as trustee and C. B. Hellickson was appointed.

The people in the village still vote on township affairs. Village affairs are voted on at the power house, and township affairs in the town hall.

HARMONY TOWNSHIP.

Harmony is on the southern tier of towns in Fillmore county, the third from Houston county, the town of Bristol is on the west, Preston on the north, and Canton on the east. The Iowa river runs through section thirty-one, and two branches from the same river start near the center of the town to run southeast into it. The territory of the township has the regular thirty-six sections of a government town. About one-third of the town, the central and southern part, is composed of prairie. There were originally but three bodies of timber in the whole township, on section ten about 100 acres, on sections thirty-three and thirty-four 250 acres, and on section thirty about 100 acres. The soil may be called a

clayey loam, is quite uniform throughout the town. There are three quite extensive ravines in the northern part, laying north and south, and through each flows a stream of greater or less magnitude, having their origin in springs, of which there are quite a number, the most important and well known being Big Spring, which at an early day attracted much attention. It comes up in the northwest part of the township and produces what is known as Camp creek. Camp creek derives its name from the fact that the large number of immigrants and other travelers who came by this route making a stopping place along the stream. The other rivulets receive various names, such as Partridge creek and Dayton creek, and in this part of the town they flow directly or indirectly into Root river.

First Settlers. The pioneer resident of the town was Calvin Hoag, who secured a place in section thirty-four in the fall of 1852. He entered the Union army during the Civil war and lost his life in the defense of his country. He was the only settler that year.

In 1853, there were but few comers, but among them was William Knox, who located on section twenty-five. After Hoag, the father of Calvin, settled on section thirty-four. He died on April 7, 1875. Alexander Cathcart also came the same year and took land in section twenty-five, but he afterwards moved to Ohio.

In 1854, quite a large number flocked in, and a list of them, as far as possible, will be given: Moses Barnes, William Stork, William Bingham, George Chandler, William Chandler, Torger Drenson, Erick Erickson and five sons, H. Nelson and two sons, Austin and N. H.; John Ellis, John Williams; Ole Qvamen, Andrew Oleson, Tallak Brokken, Arne E. Kirkelie, S. E. Kirkelie, Nels Knudson and son, Nels H. Knudson, Henry Evenson and Loren Evenson.

The next year, 1855, those who came were Halmar Kirkelie, Tor Kirkelie, Ole W. Dahle, Gulmand Egelson, Knud Peterson, Thomas Halverson, Halver Johnson and Halver Berg.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Harmony township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: August 15, John S. Green, 35; August 25, John Blake, 35; September 8, Augustus Chandler, 5; September 8, William Stork, 10; September 15, Ole Erickson, 24; September 15, Herbion Nelson, 24; September 15, Johnson Wilson, 23.

Those who obtained land in 1855 were as follows: March 2, Eber Hubbard, 7; March 1, William Kennedy, 3-10; May 22,

TALLAK BROKKEN'S CHILDREN
Top Row—Amy, Julia, Isabelle, Tilda
Bottom Row—Ole T., Thaddeus T., John T.

John Ellis, 23; May 22, Swen Johnson, 23; June 15, Swend Erickson, 9; July 7, William Bingham, 5-6; August 30, William Bursell, 25; September 4, Augustus M. Barnes, 8-9; October 12, John Cathcart, 25; November 1, After Hoag, 34; November 7, Andrew J. Drake, 31.

Early Settlers. German Johnson gives the names of the following prominent settlers of the early days, most of whom were here when he arrived in 1856: Eric Ericson, H. Nelson, John Ellis, John Wilson, Arne Arneson, S. Nune, Knud Peterson, Halvor Ostenson, Tosten Ellis (Qvamen), Arne Kirkelie, Swen Kirkelie, Tallak Brokken, Nels Berg, Osten Maland, T. Harstad, John Johnson (Kasen), Eben Kirkelie, Christian Olson, Austen (Osten) Morem, H. Morgan, Nels Morgan, Gunder Brokken, John Johnson (Krosso).

William Willford gives the following list of early settlers on Greenfield Prairie still living in 1906: 1853—James Hoag and William Knox, Sr.; 1854—Tallak Brokken, A. H. Nelson, N. H. Nelson, Edwin Stork, J. B. Pulver, Hans Johnson, John Jacobson, Ole Ellis, Ed Ellis; 1855—George McMaster, Sr., Homer Hill, Knud Peterson; 1856—German Johnson, Alonzo Daniels, John Manuel, John S. Norton, Jr., Henry Achatz, John Jacobson and W. H. Norton.

Reminiscences. The following letter from one of the early and prominent citizens is given entire, as it contains an interesting account of those early days: "Lime Springs, Ia., April 20, 1882. Gentlemen: I was born February 27, 1808, in the county of Otsego, New York, and learned and carried on the hatter's trade in Cooperstown till the business failed. On June 1, 1837, with my wife and child, we landed in Racine, Wis., and settled in the north part of the town of Geneva, Walworth county, where we suffered untold hardships in common with the settlers of that region. Our first purchase of provisions for a winter's supply was lost in Geneva lake, leaving us destitute to fight our way to keep soul and body together. Of the many things I did in that new country nothing affords me greater satisfaction than the remembrance of my action on the great moral questions that agitated the community in which I lived at that time. I called a meeting at my house and organized the only anti-slavery society ever existing in those parts and strenuously advocated the cause, and it finally became very popular in the town, the county and the state. My wife was Angeline Johnson. We were married in Cooperstown, N. Y., September 7, 1835. As to our children, Adaline was born in Cooperstown, Edwin, William Ellis, Ann Louisa, Charles Franklin and Rosalie Gertrude in Wisconsin. Feeling that my work in Wisconsin was done we all removed, in the latter part of June, 1854, to Harmony township, Fillmore

county, and on August 10 pre-empted a quarter of section ten. We found at that time but few settlers in town. I recollect Moses Barnes was in possession of a claim on which is the famous Big Spring, and Erick Erickson, Mr. Nelson and After Hoag with their families were in town. I am not certain, but think Hoag was the first settler in the south part. Knud Peterson was the first settler and proprietor of Greenfield, which was once quite a little village, but finally entirely disappeared. In the development of the town it was my lot to enact a very prominent part in the laying out of roads and attending to other things incident to a new settlement, having been chairman of the board of supervisors for many years, and assessor and justice of the peace each for one term. The Indians were quite numerous when we first arrived in Minnesota, and they conceived a great admiration for our bright colored bed quilts and for our improved rifle, which in the hands of our boys, William and Edwin, did great execution among the deer, and we had plenty of venison and deerskins. At first Democracy was rampant in the town, county and territory, and in my efforts to free the town from this rule I was ably assisted by After Hoag, Daniel Dayton and many others by organizing the anti-slavery sentiment in town in opposition to it, and after a hard struggle we succeeded and I can say without boasting that I became quite conspicuous as a leader in the struggle. In the summer of 1854 I passed through where the county seat now is, the flourishing village of Preston, and nothing was then there to mark the site of a village except a single log cabin, which, solitary and alone, stood amid the invisible possibilities around it. William Stork."

Political. The town was organized on May 11, 1858, when the original townships in the county held their first town meetings. It was held at the "Greenfield" schoolhouse. The judges of election were Moses Barnes, John H. Addison, and William Walter. The whole number of votes cast was eighty-one. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, Francis J. Craig (chairman), James E. McMillan and Thomas Elliott; town clerk, O. S. Erickson; assessor, After Hoag; collector, Austin Nelson; justices of the peace, William Benson and William Knox; constables, Thomas Ryan and Thomas Halverson.

Postoffices. The first postoffice was called Peterson, and Knud Peterson was the postmaster. The name was afterwards called Windom, in honor of Senator Windom, but has been called Harmony since about 1872. There have been two other postoffices in town, Big Springs, in the northwest part, and Wilton Centre, in section one. But they have been discontinued and Harmony is the only one remaining.

Big Springs. James P. Tibbetts came from Bangor, Me., to

Preston in 1855 and pre-empted a quarter section of land in the town of Harmony, about a mile from Big Spring. As a speculation he had the land platted on paper and recorded as "Big Springs," dividing the entire 160 acres into lots, with blocks for business purposes, blocks for residences, for public institutions, for churches and for parks, with a river flowing from the Big Spring, which was the center of the place, and to be the center of attraction. It was taken to Chicago and lithographed in colors. He was then ready for business and went East and succeeded in selling most, if not all, the farm in this way, obtaining from $25 for a residence lot to $150 for a corner business lot. Several years later, when the taxes had become past delinquent, Mr. Tibbetts bought up the tax titles and the property was again sold, this time as a farm.

The Big Spring. This noted spring was in the claim of Moses Barnes, made in 1853. It was here that the first hotel was built, in 1853, by Mr. Barnes, and being on the stage line he did a thriving business for several years, particularly in the winter, when the navigation of the Mississippi was suspended, as this was on the St. Paul and Dubuque line. The second tavern in town was opened by Daniel Dayton, in section six, in 1855. At first he put up a log building, in the autumn of that year, and it was known as the Ravine House. The next year he constructed a stone addition, and it was continued as a hotel until about 1865.

Greenfield Village. This village, now extinct, was located about three-quarters of a mile south of the present village of Harmony and about sixty rods east of the Norwegian church. Of early days in Greenfield, William Willford has said:

When I crossed the Mississippi river in 1854 there were no railroads in this locality. It was the old covered wagon or prairie schooners that were pouring into Minnesota with hundreds of families seeking a new home. At that time there was but one village platted in the county and all locations were designated by grove or prairie. I soon learned the location of Washington and Franklin Prairie in Winneshiek county, Iowa, and Looking Glass Prairie in towns 100 and 101, ranges eight and nine, Greenfield prairie in town 101, ranges nine and ten, Richland prairie in towns 101 and 102, range eight, Highland prairie in towns 102 and 103, ranges eight and nine, Buffalo Grove in town 102, range eleven and Pleasant Grove in town 105, range thirteen. In December, 1854, Elliota and Carimona, which were on the Brink & Walker stage route from Dubuque to St. Paul, were platted, and in the year 1855 the population of Fillmore county had so increased by the incoming emigrants that six more towns were platted in order given, viz., Fillmore, Jordan, Forestville, Preston, Big Spring and Newburg.

On May 16, 1856, T. P. Ropes located this "Goshen" of Fillmore county, in longitude 92° west from Greenwich and about 43° 20″ north latitude. On hearing of the success of Ropes locating this center of attraction I began to consult my map and became satisfied that Greenfield must certainly be on the Brink & Walker stage route and about midway between Dubuque and St. Paul, believing, that if located at this point as described, it would be very essential to the happiness and prosperity of the early settlers of Fillmore county. This Brink & Walker stage route via Ossian, Decorah and Burr Oak, Ia., entered Fillmore county in town one hundred one, range nine, and ran diagonally across the county from the southeast to the northwest, the stages stopping at stations Greenfield, Carimona and Fillmore in Fillmore county and Pleasant Grove in Olmstead county, Minnesota, in 1856 and 1857. This thread that bound together in the "fifties" Dubuque and St. Paul is, save to the historian and those who live along the route, an unknown chapter to the present generation, yet the flavor of romance, the memories of almost forgotten glories, of a noble, ambitious mission, successfully accomplished clings to every hoary monument of that ancient highway. Over this route came the sturdy and fearless hunter and trapper, followed timidly and falteringly by the homemaker, until at last the tide of emigration taking courage, poured in a deluge over this route to the land of promise.

To supply the trade demands and that of the growing population of Minnesota in the early days, long trains of freighting wagons in the summer and freighting sleighs in winter were a familiar spectacle, and the caravan of huge freighters, each carrying from two thousand to four thousand pounds. This great freight traffic created a class of men of its own, strong and daring, and had need to be, as fur coats and overshoes were unknown in those days of frontier life in the winter time, and they had to substitute blankets for fur coats, and wear cowhide boots minus the overshoes when the thermometers registered 30° and 35° below zero. In the winter time the bulk of the freight handled by the freighters was oats, corn and dressed pork that was collected along the route between Decorah and Dubuque, Ia., by the local dealers. J. B. Pulver handled the ribbons in 1856 and 1857 from Ossian, Ia., to Pleasant Grove, Minn. The caravans of freight wagons and sleighs, and the four-horse stage coaches were picturesque features of the old life that history will not repeat. Later I learned that Ropes had platted this town of Greenfield (which had at that time the prospects of a great future) and had made its location more explicit, and designating it on section fourteen, town 101, range ten, west of the fifth principal meridian, and Knud Peterson and J. S. Norton, Sr., as proprietors.

Its growth and the business done in this town (especially "moonshine") during the last half of 1859 was said to have been marvelous. In the winter of 1856 and 1857 Nature covered this town with a blanket of snow the thickness of about forty-two inches. Shortly after this blanket was spread "Old Sol" with his illimitable heated rays warmed up the outer surface of this great blanket, which was followed by zero temperature that congealed it, thereby forming a crust on the outer surface of this blanket strong enough to hold up one hundred and fifty pounds to the square foot. This period of time whenever referred to by the old settlers is called "the winter of the crust." Many of the early settlers who were not in the habit of hunting often pursued deer and caught them on the crust for the sake of informing their friends in the East by letter that they had killed a deer. This was the winter that the deer were mercilessly annihilated in Fillmore county by the settlers and hunters traveling on snowshoes and killing them with clubs and axes. It was impossible for teams to haul loads until the roads were made passable by the use of shovels and none were opened only the main thoroughfares. Many of the settlers hauled their fuel the entire winter on hand sleds. When trips were made across the country off the main roads they were made on Norwegian "skis," which was the only possible locomotion that could be used during that winter. On August 3, 1857, E. D. Hawkins platted the expansion, which was also on section fourteen, town one hundred and one, range ten, and for aught I know covered the entire section, and Arne Arneson and Knud Peterson as proprietors of the addition.

In 1856 Knud Peterson built a store. According to German Johnson, an early settler, this store was also used as a tavern and as a place for distributing mail

CHAPTER XX.

LANESBORO AND CARROLTON TOWNSHIP.

Lanesboro—Location and Advantages—Early History—The First Hotel — Lanesboro in 1879 — Municipal History — Carrolton Township — Early Settlement — Land Office Records — Early Events—Political—Clear Grit—Isinours.

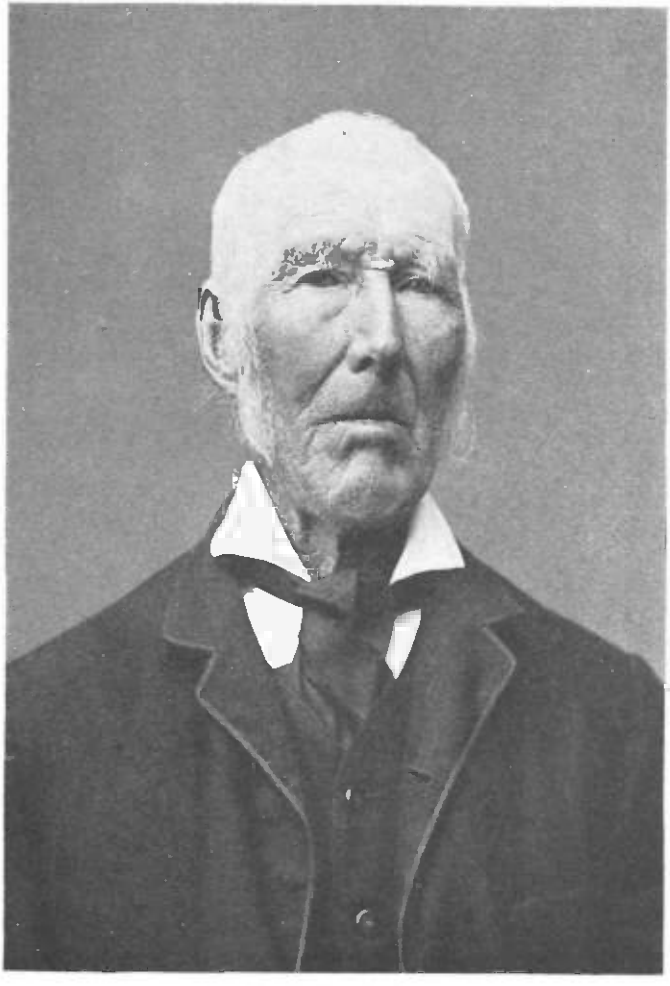
Lanesboro is a substantial village on the Root river and the southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It is one of the most picturesque of southern Minnesota villages, with pretty expanses of water and towering bluffs which give it a characteristic individuality. The village is possessed of many desirable features as a place of residence, being especially healthful and well situated. It has four churches, a good school, waterworks, good fire protection, electric lights, a newspaper, two banks, two hotels, a good park, several fraternities, good telephone and telegraph service, well-kept streets, a creamery, a canning factory, an elevator, a roller mill, several general stores, a lumber yard, and the usual number of stores, restaurants and other business houses. There are also a number of grain and stock buyers, and several professional men.

One of the many desirable features of Lanesboro is its natural park, which can be surpassed by none in the state. Nature has been most lavish in furnishing it with all the features to make it beautiful and interesting. It is centrally located between Brooklyn and the business part of the town, contains several acres, and was donated by the Lanesboro Company some time in the seventies.

Lanesboro was laid out, platted and recorded in the spring of 1868 by the Lanesboro Company. There are two opinions as to the true source of the village name. Many claim that the town was named after the old New England town, Lanesborough, from whence a number of the early settlers came, while others insist that the town was named in honor of F. A. Lane, one of the principal stockholders in the Lanesboro Townsite Company.

Early Settlement. The story of the earliest settlement on sections 24 and 13, where the town of Lanesboro is now located, is a most interesting one.

The first log cabin was erected in 1856 by John Scanlan, Sr.,



JOHN SCANLAN, SR.

assisted by his sons, Michael, Daniel, John, Cornelius and Thomas, of whom Michael and Thomas still survive. This cabin had a thatched roof, and was in striking contrast to the beautiful dwellings of today.

Thomas Barrett erected a log cabin on section 24 in 1857, and lived thereon until the Lanesboro Company purchased his land.

The next shack was erected in 1858 by John McLaughlin on section 13, the location being in what is now called the "Mill Reservation." McLaughlin sold his land to C. Johnson and brother, and it was later sold to the Lanesboro Company.

The next shack was erected in 1858 by Con. Scanlan in that part of the town now called Brooklyn. He sold to Ed. Enright, who in turn, sold his land to the Lanesboro Company.

Lanesboro Townsite Company. In the summer of 1868, a joint stock company was formed in New York, with a capital of about $62,500, the object being to build up the town of Lanesboro, and to be known under the above caption. The capital of the company was divided into twenty-five shares of $2,500 each, and the following were the stockholders of the company: C. W. Thompson, 5 shares; Eliza Thompson, 1 share; Wm. Windom, 1 share; H. W. Holley, 1 share; C. G. Wyckoff, 1 share; F. A. Lane, 3 shares; Thomas Bard, 1 share; Townsend Bros., 3 shares; H. C. Kingsley, 4 shares; A. P. Man, 4 shares; L. Meyers, 1 share.

Shortly after the organization of the company, the members were assessed an additional $500 per share, making the paid up capital of the company $75,000. The company at once commenced operations by sending their agent to the spot to purchase 500 acres of land. Land was purchased of M. Scanlan, Con. Scanlan, Ed. Enright, Thos. Barrett and Ed. and C. Johnson.

It was in July, 1868, that the company commenced the erection of the stone hotel, making the excavation for a foundation in the middle of a field of wheat, and paid $50 damage to Mr. Johnson, who owned the crop. While the hotel was in process of erection, the company completed a newspaper and company office, and a barn near the river. While the office was being built, an enterprising editor, J. Lute Christie, published his paper under the trees. The first lumber ever brought into Lanesboro was drawn by an ox team from Rushford, early in the fall of 1868. Tom Densmore brought the first load and continued hauling until he had brought in enough to build the company's boarding shanty, which was the second building on the ground, and the first frame structure. This shanty was built by the townsite company for a place of shelter for the men at work on other buildings, and was run as a hotel or boarding ranch, by an aged negro. From this fact it soon received, and was always known as "Nigger Shanty."

In the meantime business houses and dwellings had commenced springing up, and the town, late in the fall of 1868, could be considered fairly started. The first business house in town was built by W. H. Roberts in the fall of 1868, upon the corner of what is now known as block 17. He moved in a $25,000 stock of goods the same fall, when, it may be said, there was hardly an ox path leading to the place. In commencing the foundation of his building, Mr. Roberts cut down the trees, just making room for his store, with a path leading to it. This store was known for years as the New York store, and Mr. Roberts' family lived in the upper story of the building. Immediately following, Greer & Greer put up a store building on the same block west of Roberts' building. This was occupied by them with a stock of general merchandise. Dan. O'Brien built a store adjoining Roberts' New York store, and moved the first stock of hardware in town into it. Scanlan & Abbott soon followed, and had a large stock of hardware on the shelves, almost as soon as O'Brien. This they ran for a number of years, but it afterward passed into the hands of Johnson & Christopherson.

The first hotel in town, not considering "Nigger Shanty" worthy of that important caption, was the Grant Hotel, which was opened in the fall of 1868. The hotel was discontinued some years ago. Shortly after, the Cottage House, American Hotel, and others were built. The large stone hotel was completed and opened in July, 1870. On the opening day of this hotel, a free public dinner was given by the Lanesboro company, which is said to have cost $2,000. Messrs. Chase & White were the first landlords. The cost of the building and furniture was about $42,000.

The first car load of wheat shipped from Lanesboro, was shipped by O. G. Nash, to Chicago. The railroad company exhibited generosity by shipping the load free of charge. The first agent of the Lanesboro company was George Ellis. In 1872, B. A. Man succeeded him, and held the position for about six years. J. C. Easton was agent for a short time, and was followed by many others.

The First Hotel. The old Lanesboro hotel was one of the stepping stones to the prosperity of Lanesboro. A history of the county, published in 1880, in speaking of the old hotel, now destroyed, said:

"It was fortunate that the founders of Lanesboro were men of intelligence and enterprise; men who, after viewing the natural advantages of the locality, saw how, by utilizing the water power, wealth could be accumulated, real estate be advanced, and a village spring up among the bleak cliffs and upon the rocky bottoms that skirt the shores of the favorite stream of the Indians, Root river. True, the numerous farms that lay within a radius

of six or seven miles of the present village were under cultivation, but their products had to be transported to the Mississippi by the slow propulsion of horse power. It was a grand epoch in the history of this locality when the iron horse woke the silence of the surrounding heights with the echoes of its shrill whistle. It gave the car of progress such a forward movement that certain success and measurable prosperity could be predicted for the young and growing town. Among the material agencies which experience has found essential to the healthy prosperity of a town, are the schoolhouse, church, newspaper, and a first-class hotel. At an early period in the history of Lanesboro, all of these desirable institutions were permanently established. No longer ago than 1868, a traveler coming within the present incorporated limits would have seen no signs of a village. Two residences, occupied by Denny Gallighen and Mr. Leahy, were the only buildings in sight. But they were soon supplanted by more imposing edifices. Under the potent direction of Clark W. Thompson, F. A. Lane, A. P. Man, H. C. Kingsley, and P. M. Meyers, members of the Lanesboro company, a number of substantial buildings were soon erected, among which was the Lanesboro hotel, the best constructed hotel in southern Minnesota. This building, four stories high, 84x89, was erected and elegantly furnished with all the modern improvements in the summer of 1869, at a cost of $52,000. Its first occupants were Messrs. C. L. Chase and H. H. White, who satisfactorily catered to the public from 1870 to 1873. J. H. Preston was then landlord until June, 1876, when he was succeeded by John Hobart, who subsequently vacated the hotel to be succeeded by its first landlord, C. L. Chase. Mr. Chase, with that enterprise and full understanding of what kind of a building and just what kind of hotel furnishing would be necessary in order to enable him to keep a first-class hotel, immediately on taking possession of the premises, inaugurated a series of improvements, which placed the hotel in a condition superior to any like establishment in southern Minnesota. Later it passed through various hands and was finally destroyed."

Lanesboro in 1879. A birdseye view of Lanesboro published in 1879, shows that the village was then in a thriving condition. The view shows a school; the Lanesboro mill and Carrolton mill; three churches, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist Episcopal; five hotels, Lanesboro Hotel, Valley House, Winona House, American House, Devey Hotel; warehouse; a park; fair grounds; four general stores, S. A. Nelson, W. H. Roberts, Hobart & Gates, Greer & Greer; two hardware stores, D. O'Brien and Johnson & Christopherson; saddlery and harness, M. V. Bean;

implement store, Nepstead brothers; the Root River Bank, conducted by J. C. Easton; eight saloons and many residences.

Municipal History. Lanesboro was incorporated as a village by the Minnesota legislature in the spring of 1869. The first election was held at Densmore's hall, April 17, 1869. The judges of election were Robert Smalley and L. N. Butler. The clerk of election was C. C. Doss. The meeting was called to order by Luke Miller. The first president was Luke Miller. The other officers were: Trustees, W. H. Roberts, Charles J. Johnson, Ole Iverson; recorder, S. B. Goudy; constable, Nelse Benson (refused to qualify); justice of the peace, W. L. Sherman.

1870—President, Luke Miller; trustees, S. B. Goudy, W. H. Roberts, C. J. Johnson; recorder, Arthur Flynn; justice, C. W. Nash; constable, George Babcock.

1871—President, Luke Miller; trustees, C. K. Orton, M. V. Bean, C. C. Abbott; recorder, Arthur Flynn; justice, C. C. Doss; constable, George Babcock.

1872—President, Luke Miller; trustees, C. J. Johnson, A. G. Nash, George W. Douglass; recorder, J. C. Nelson; justice, C. C. Doss; constable, George Babcock.

1873—President, Luke Miller; trustees, R. R. Greer, D. O. Bruce, George W. Douglass; recorder, H. Christopherson; treasurer, J. C. Nelson; justice, C. C. Doss; constable, B. A. Mann.

1874—President, W. H. Roberts; trustees, M. Scanlan, E. Kember, George Lilliberg; recorder, S. A. Nelson; treasurer, Charles Johnson; justices, S. B. Gundey, N. Brooks; constables, George Babcock, Thomas Evans.

1875—President, W. H. Roberts; trustees, Robert Greer, P. A. Berg, George Lilliberg; recorder, A. G. Nash; treasurer, George W. Lawyer; justices, B. A. Man, J. R. Jones; constables, George Babcock, L. L. Miller, Jr.

1876—President, Luke Miller; trustees, W. S. Potter, L. Nash, D. O'Brien; recorder, Frank Freemire; treasurer, S. A. Nelson; two justices, John Hobart, J. R. Jones; constables, James Cummings, J. G. Koller.

1877—President, S. Gilbert; trustees, D. O'Brien, Patrick Malony, M. V. Bean; recorder, Frank Freemire; treasurer, S. A. Nelson; justices, J. R. Jones, Charles Lambert; constables, George Babcock, S. Nordby.

1878—President, R. R. Greer; council, M. Scanlan, D. W. Hall, O. Langlie, O. G. Wall, O. Knudson; clerk, H. Shelberg; treasurer, M. V. Bean; justices, J. R. Jones, B. A. Mann; marshal, F. Freemire.

1879—President, O. G. Wall; council, George W. Douglass, F. Erickson, L. Knudson, Emil Nelson, J. H. Travis; clerk, H. C.

Schelberg; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; marshal, Edward Smith; justice, J. G. French.

1880—President, G. P. Babcock; council, Thomas Thompson, Edward Johnson, R. R. Greer, H. J. Cook, Emil Nelson; recorder, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; marshal, Edward Smith.

1881—President, B. A. Mann; council, Emil Nelson, O. V. Capron, O. Langlie, M. V. Bean, H. C. Schelberg; recorder, P. A. Melgard; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; justices, J. G. French, J. R. Jones; marshal, Edward Smith.

1882—President, R. R. Greer; council, S. A. Nelson, M. V. Bean, O. Langlie, O. V. Capron, John Kvittum; clerk, Jacob Wahl; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; justices, Clement Engle; marshals, Edward Smith, E. Kimber.

1883—President, M. V. Bean; council, Thomas Thompson, E. W. Ruth, O. G. Wall, C. Schanesberg, H. J. Clauson; recorder, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, Ole Langlie. This year the voters defeated a proposition to bond the village to the amount of $4,000 for the purpose of building a public hall and jail.

1884—President, James Thompson; council, Thomas Thompson, M. Scanlan, Thomas Thorp, H. J. Clauson, C. O. Krogstad; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, O. G. Wall; justice, W. W. Sackett; marshal, Barney Harmon. July 28, 1884, the council decided to buy a lot for the fire department, the price to be not more than $600.00. A contract was awarded to excavate a reservoir. September 22 contract was let for piping the principal streets for the waterworks system.

1885—President, Charles Johnson; council, Thomas Thompson, C. O. Krogstad, M. Scanlan, Hans J. Clauson, A. G. Chapman; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, H. Christopherson; justices, J. R. Jones, Jacob Wahl; marshal, C. P. Richardson.

1886—President, Charles Johnson; council, W. S. Henry, O. V. Capron, E. W. Ruth, Hans Jacobson, John Solberg; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, H. Christopherson; marshal, William Conerty.

1887—President, Thomas Rafferty; council, W. S. Henry, J. Solberg, Hans Jacobson, E. W. Ruth, O. V. Capron; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; justices, Ole Langlie, Charles Conaty, marshal, John Kinsella.

1888—President, M. V. Bean; council, R. R. Greer, S. Gilbert, H. J. Clauson, Charles Johnson, John Beck; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; marshal, C. Engle.

1889—President, S. A. Nelson; council, D. Galligan, C. H. Schansberg, Edward Johnson, O. V. Capron, H. J. Clauson, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; justices, Charles Conaty, J. T. French; marshal, C. Engle.

1890—President, C. H. Schansberg; council, Thomas Thompson, R. R. Greer, H. E. Glassoe, Jacob Wahl, H. Christopherson; clerk, H. C. Schelberg; treasurer, O. G. Wall; marshal, Ole A. Wilberg.

1891—President, C. H. Schansberg; council, R. R. Greer, Thomas Thompson, O. V. Capron, H. E. Glassoe, C. A. Ward; clerk, Jacob Wahl; treasurer, M. V. Bean; justices, Ole Allen, J. G. French; marshal, W. S. Henry.

1892—President, C. H. Schansberg; council, Thomas Thompson, H. E. Glassoe, Edward Johnson, R. R. Greer, C. A. Ward; clerk, Jacob Wahl; treasurer, C. O. Krogstad; marshal, Syver Swenson.

1893—President, Edward Johnson; council, C. A. Ward, Thomas Thompson, C. O. Hubbell, H. E. Glassoe, D. J. Mahoney; clerk, Jacob Wahl; treasurer, John Solberg; justices, William Sackett, Ole Allen; marshal, James Galligan.

1894—President, Edward Johnson; council, S. P. Sanders, C. O. Hubbell, O. V. Capron, Thomas Thompson, H. E. Glassoe; clerk, Jacob Wahl; treasurer, John Solberg; marshal, James Galligan.

1895—President, Edward Johnson; council, O. V. Capron, R. R. Greer, M. Galligan, C. O. Hubbell, S. P. Sanders; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, John Solberg; justices, Ole Allen, William Sackett; marshal, James Galligan.

1896—President, Thomas Thompson; council, D. Galligan, O. V. Capron, R. R. Greer, C. H. Devilliers, L. T. Tollefson; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, John Solberg; marshal, James Galligan.

1897—President, Thomas Thompson; council, O. V. Capron, C. H. Devilliers, John Toomey, W. S. Henry, C. H. Schansberg; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, G. B. Ellestad; justices, M. F. Terwilligan, Ole Allen; marshal, James Galligan.

1898—President, Anton Christensen; council, D. Galligan, A. Carlson, John Toomey, Peter Torkelson, M. W. Williams; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, G. B. Ellestad; marshal, James Galligan.

1899—President, Anton Christensen; council, James Toomey, L. L. Moe, R. R. Greer, Peter E. Torkelson, L. T. Tollefson; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, John Solberg; justices, William Sackett, Ole Allen; marshal, James Galligan.

1900—President, John Toomey; council, A. Christensen, L. L. Moe, P. E. Torkelson, L. T. Tollefson, R. R. Greer; clerk, O. M. Habberstad; treasurer, John Solberg; marshal, James Galligan.

1901—President, R. R. Greer; council, C. H. Schansberg, Ira C. Pickett, T. Stanton, Julius Olson, Charles Peterson; clerk, C. A. Chapman; treasurer, A. J. Lund; justices, William Sackett, J. G. French; marshal, James Galligan.

1902—President, John Toomey; council, C. H. Schansberg, Ole Habberstad, Ira C. Pickett, M. V. Bean, L. L. Moe; clerk, Ole Viste; treasurer, A. J. Lund; marshal, James Galligan.

1903—President, John Toomey; council, C. H. Schansberg; M. V. Bean, Ole Habberstad, I. C. Pickett, T. Stanton; clerk, J. H. Leary; treasurer, O. M. Habberstad; justices, W. W. Sackett, J. G. French; marshal, James Galligan.

1904—President, M. W. Williams; council, M. V. Bean, W. S. Henry, Thomas Stanton, A. J. Hanson, Jacob Wahl; clerk, Guy R. Greer; treasurer, O. M. Habberstad; marshal, James Galligan.

1905—President, M. W. Williams; council, A. J. Lund, Thomas Thompson, S. A. Nelson, Jacob Wahl, W. S. Henry; clerk, Guy R. Greer; treasurer, O. M. Habberstad; justices, William Sackett, J. G. French; marshal, James Galligan.

1906—President, L. T. Tollefson; council, F. A. Drake, John Skaug, A. J. Lund, Ole Habberstad, A. A. Nepstad; clerk, F. M. Bean; treasurer, O. M. Habberstad; marshal, James Galligan.

1907—President, L. T. Tollefson; council, A. A. Nepstad, John Skaug, A. J. Lund, F. A. Drake, Ole Habberstad; clerk, F. M. Bean; treasurer, O. M. Habberstad; justices, J. G. French, W. W. Sackett; marshal, Charles Evans.

1908—President, C. A. Ward; trustees, A. J. Lund, F. A. Drake, Ole Habberstad; clerk, S. A. Stromme; treasurer, P. A. Nelson; justice, Thomas Scanlan; constables, Henry O. Bearson, Charles Evans.

1909—President, F. A. Drake; trustees, A. J. Lund, George McMaster, W. S. Henry; clerk, S. A. Stromme; treasurer, P. A. Nelson; justice, John C. Miller, Sr.; constable, Henry O. Bearson.

1910—Mayor, F. A. Drake; trustees, A. J. Lund, W. S. Henry, M. K. Skaug; clerk, S. A. Stromme; treasurer, P. A. Nelson; justice, J. G. French; constables, Charles Evans, James Galligan.

1911—President, T. T. Tollefson; trustees, A. J. Lund, W. S. Henry, M. K. Skaug; clerk, T. A. Bell; treasurer, P. A. Nelson; justice, J. G. French.

1912—President, L. T. Tollefson; trustees, M. K. Skaug, A. J. Lund, W. S. Henry; clerk, S. A. Stromme; treasurer, P. A. Nelson; justice, J. G. French; constables, Charles Evans, James Galligan.

Electric Lights and Water Works. Lanesboro owns its electric plant and water power. The Lanesboro stone dam, constructed in the fall of 1868 by the Lanesboro Company at a cost of $15,000, on the south branch of Root river, is evidently one of the most natural places for such a structure to be found anywhere in the northwest. The dam is built of solid square stone found within 200 feet of the dam. These square stones averaged in size about two and one-half feet in thickness and were found

laying loose on the surface of a rich loamy soil. Nature has been very kind towards maintaining a dam at this point, as it is built on solid rock foundation and connected scientifically at both ends with a natural rock wall from top to bottom. The front masonry wall is twenty-four feet high, and a fall where the generating power is located of thirty feet. If it ever becomes necessary, there is sufficient power to furnish an electric illuminating current for a town having a population of twelve thousand.

Lanesboro is also very fortunate in its water system. The supply of water for the town is pumped from a flowing spring which comes from the bowels of the earth at the foot of one of the bluffs and is elevated to a reservoir on the top of Church hill. The basin has capacity of 7,000 barrels, and from its elevated position gives a pressure of seventy pounds in the business part of town. Lanesboro has the best and the most valuable asset of any town in the state in its supply of good spring water, which is fully appreciated by its citizens. The water is constantly pumped into the basin from the flowing spring, making it most desirable and acceptable for domestic and home consumption.

CARROLTON TOWNSHIP.

Carrolton has the thirty-six sections of a government township, with the addition of sections six and seven of that on the east, and one-half each of sections thirty-three, thirty-four, and thirty-five on the north. It is the northeast of the four central towns of the county, and has Pilot Mound on the north, Holt on the east, Preston on the south, and Fountain on the west. The south branch of the Root river enters the town in section thirty-two, and follows its winding way to leave the town from section thirteen at Lanesboro. There are few, if any, rougher towns in the county than this. The hills are high and the bluffs abrupt, and of course this gives valleys of corresponding depths, and in some places they are pinched up to form mere ravines or gorges, and in others spread out and make room for fine farms. The soil is varied from a light sandy clay to a dark rich loam. The south sides of the bluffs are nearly barren, while the north side is generally covered with timber. The Root river itself cuts across the northeast corner of the township. Watson creek comes into the town from Fountain in section nineteen, and empties into the south branch at Clear Grit, in section twenty-one. Trout creek works its way from Preston through section thirty-six into the mill pond at Lanesboro. Another little stream comes from Fountain, through section seven, and finds its way into the north branch of Root river. The other little rivulets in town are unimportant.

Early Settlement. Among the first settlers to spy out this goodly land, were K. K. Bell, T. K. Bell, R. Knudson and R. Peterson. They came early in the spring of 1854, and secured claims in sections seven and twelve, and the presumption is that the first log house in the town was put up by them. At first they lived in a shanty made of elm bark. These pioneers were originally from Norway and had lived in Wisconsin before coming here.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Joseph Mulvihill, and John Mulvihill, natives of the south of Ireland, came here from Illinois and planted themselves on section seven, in the west part of the town. It may be well to state here that there are two sections six and seven in the town, the two extra ones being, as already intimated, in the northeast part. A former history states that a man wanted the lucrative position of supervisor, and so engineered as to get these two sections set off from Holt, and some half sections from Pilot Mound, and by this movement secured the object of his ambition.

G. W. Eddy, of Illinois, came and settled in section twenty in 1855. The north and west part of the town was first settled by James Crowley, John Noonan, William Ryan, R. Fitzgerald, M. Mulholland, James Oberton and others, who, coming from Ireland, had at first located in Iowa.

Charles McGuire secured a farm in section five in 1856; O. C. Gulbrandson in section twenty-seven; L. L. Olson also came the same year. James Billings come to Preston in 1856 and preempted eighty acres on the southwest quarter of section thirty-one, in Carrolton, and laid out the addition in that section.

In 1857 J. H. Skarie located in section one, and during that year the town was quite well filled up.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Carrolton township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: May 9, Hans Wood, 8; May 24, Joseph Mulvihill, 7; May 24, Patrick Shaughnessy, 7; July 7, John Ryan, 7; July 7, William Ryan, 18; July 19, James O'Connell, 7; July 17, John Noonan, 8; August 8, Nathan Austin, 21-23; August 22, Oscar F. Kennedy, 33-34; September 15, Michael Mulholland, 9; October 13, Philip Rudden, 11; October 20, Hugh Mulholland, 13; October 31, David B. Seelye, 28; November 24, George W. Eddy, 20-21; December 12, John Fisk, 34; December 31, Sigund Sigulfen, 5.

Early Events. Peter Regnold, son of Regnold Knudson, was born in February, 1856. Mary Crowley was another early baby. Sheldon P. Eddy and Mary K. Eddy were united in the bonds of

wedlock in July, 1855, at the house of G. W. Eddy. Mr. Ropes of Carimona tied the nuptial knot. The marriage of Ole Bendrickson to Lucretia Knudson, and Martin Bremen to Mary Ryan, should also be mentioned. In July, 1854, Mrs. P. O'Shaughnessy was killed by the falling of a tree which was struck by lightning. They had not yet got up their cabins and were camped in a grove. The men were away at work, and on their return, after a shower, found Mrs. O'Shaughnessy under the fallen trunk, dead, and Mrs. John Mulvihill prostrated by the stroke. Although she was resuscitated she never fully recovered from the shock. An early death was that of Patrick Mullony, who, in the winter of 1856, started to walk home from Carimona to Carrolton in a snow storm and losing his way, perished. His faithful dog went home and led his friends back to the spot where he lay in the snow, stark and dead. His was the first burial in Carrolton cemetery. The first saw-mill in town was built by K. O. Orton in 1857, on the north branch of Root river, in section seven, over in the eastern part of town. About eight feet of fall was secured. It had a reciprocating saw, the canal that carried the water to the mill was nearly three-fourths of a mile long, but in 1858 it was destroyed by a flood. It was rebuilt and in 1860 was again washed away and the mill demolished. The material was then used to build a barn in section twelve. Gilbert & Foster, in 1858, built a mill to saw lumber on section thirty-four. In the winter of 1860 it was washed away and has never been replaced. The first saloon in town was before the war, previous to the excise tax. It was opened by Tom Hasset, on section thirty-four north. The whisky was procured raw from the distillery at Troy.

Political. The town was organized May 11, 1858. The election was at the house of Michael Mulholland in section nine. There was quite a discussion as to the name, a motion having been made to call the town Cork. But finally it was named in honor of the bold signer of the Declaration of Independence, Richard Carrol. The board elected at that meeting was as follows: G. W. Eddy, chairman; John Mulvihill, Lawrence Connelly; town clerk, M. E. Billings; assessor, Nathan Austin; collector, Nic. Connelly; justices of the peace, E. F. Armstrong and M. P. Enright; overseer of the poor, Patrick Wein. In 1859, M. Scanlan was elected town clerk and served for 21 years. At a special meeting held on December 9, 1864, the sum of $4,000 was voted to secure volunteers to fill the quota of the town. On April 6, 1865, the sum of $800 each was voted to those who would volunteer. The whole amount paid by the town for volunteers and to drafted men was about $8,000. The town affairs have been economically administered by the various boards that have been elected.

Clear Grit was once a flourishing hamlet in section twenty-one, but nothing now remains of it but the ruins of a mill. The mill was constructed in 1869, by Everett Newcomb. In 1871, Hendrickson & McLaughlin came in possession. In 1872, John Kaercher, of Preston, bought them out and enlarged the mill. In 1878 the mill was changed to a roller mill, the first in the county, as is stated, to make the alteration. In February, 1879, it was started with the new process, having twenty-one sets of rolls. Later it passed through various hands. The first store was opened here in 1872, by John Kaercher. It changed hands several times previous to 1875, when W. H. Roberts bought the concern and conducted it for some years. In 1877 Kelly & Mosher started a lumber yard, and the next year sold to Charles Grinder. He put up a building, 40x24 feet, as an office and hardware store, but never supplied the goods to fill it. In 1880, selling what he had on hand, he closed the establishment. In 1879 John Paul began a lumber yard. In 1874 Theabold Switzer built a hotel and conducted it about one year, when it passed into other hands. In 1881 Freeman Young built a wagon and blacksmith shop, making wagons and repairing, but the same year he discontinued his place and left.

Isinours Station. The depot building was elected by the citizens of Preston, who, having been disappointed in securing the road at their own doors, were obliged to go to this expense, as one of the directors remarked, "it had cost so much to get around the town that the company could not afford to build a station for them." The land was secured of George Isenhour, and a man was employed to care for the station. In a year or two the company placed an agent there, and have since managed it. Mr. Isenhour built a hotel. In 1871 a post-office was established here, with W. M. Grant as postmaster. Very soon, however, Mr. Isenhour was appointed. Mr. Isenhour was followed by Mrs. John C. Mills, who was the last postmistress. Mail is now received from Preston. While hopes were entertained that this would sometime be a village, the place still consists of a railroad station and two houses, the post-office and the hotel having been discontinued. The place is known as a junction point, and also as the residence of the Hon. and Mrs. John C. Mills.

CHAPTER XXI

RUSHFORD AND PETERSON.

Rushford City—Modern Progress—Early History—Naming the Hamlet Pioneer Days—Municipal History—Public Library—Rushford Township, now Rushford Village—Early Settlers—Early Events—Land Office Records—Political—Peterson Village—Early History—Municipal History.

Rushford is a progressive city in the northeastern part of the county, on the Root river, and the Southern Minnesota branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It is well laid out, and well situated, with a pretty park, which was platted with the city, and various natural features of picturesque beauty which have been well preserved and cared for. The city was settled in 1854 and incorporated in 1868. In the early days the hamlet was known as Trail City by reason of the fact that many Indian paths converged here. The city has a good water works system, an excellent high school, a public library, electric lights on streets and in residences, fine telephone and telegraph service, good fire protection, a sewer system, two banks, a good newspaper, two theaters, two good hotels and several boarding houses and restaurants, a lumber yard, a creamery, two elevators, a power company, and representative lodges of several of the leading fraternities. It is excellently supplied with the usual business houses and professional men. There are several churches of the leading denominations, and the social and literary standing of the community is high. In the manufacturing line may be mentioned woolen, knitting, flour and feed mills, a bottling plant and a wagon shop, as well as the usual cobblers, blacksmiths and harness makers.

Early History. The first claimant here was E. K. Dyer, who had lived in Houston, Houston county, and came about April, 1854, with his family, a wife and two children, and built a log cabin near what is now the west end of Rushford avenue. During the summer he cultivated a little patch of corn; he had a yoke of oxen, a cow, and a few hogs, some of which, during the season, were destroyed by bears. The following spring Mr. Dyer went to Zumbrota and thence to La Crosse, and afterwards to La Crescent.

OLD LOG CABIN

Hiram Walker, his wife and two children, were the next comers in Rushford. He was a native of New Hampshire, and came up here from La Crosse, where he had lived since 1851. His arrival was in August, 1854, after having traveled through quite a portion of the county in quest of a good water privilege, which he found at this place. Having decided to locate here he returned to La Crosse, and securing a boat, he, with two other families, Joseph Otis and S. S. Stebbins, put aboard their household goods and started across the Mississippi and up the Root river, which they followed in its winding way until above Houston. Here an impassable obstruction was encountered, and they were forced to abandon the boat and haul their goods the rest of the way with a team. In the meantime Mr. Stebbins had been taken sick, and his condition was such that it was deemed advisable for him to return, and accordingly Mr. Otis took him back to La Crosse in a canoe. Mr. Walker, with the assistance of two hired men, Joseph Pease and R. H. Valentine, transported the goods to their destination. Coming up the river, at the point where the boat was abandoned, they met Mr. Dyer and wife, completely discouraged, and intending to leave the place never to return. Their two children had died of fever, and with their new home thus desolated, they could not bear to remain there alone. Mr. Walker and his family reassured them, and they were prevailed upon to return, remaining through the winter. As soon as Mr. Stebbins, who was a brother-in-law, was comfortable enough to leave La Crosse, Mr. Otis and family came up. Mr. Stebbins joined them later in the winter, and so there were four families in Rushford during the winter of 1854-55. When that pioneer party was coming from La Crosse, Mr. Stebbins, who was taken sick, had a supply of merchandise that was brought along, but the store itself was not opened until he finally reported in person, although Mr. Walker had sold merchandise from this stock. Soon after Mr. Walker arrived he began the erection of a mill on Rush creek, which was ready to operate the following spring.

William Johnson came up in the fall of 1854, and lived here until his death in 1881. He was a Canadian by birth, and came here from New York state.

The next prominent old settler was William W. Snell, a native of North Brookfield, Mass. He was the son of a Congregational minister. He arrived on May 4, 1855, bought a lot of S. S. Stebbins and built an unhewn timber residence. His wife and child were left in Lawrence, Mass., and as soon as his house was prepared he sent for his young family, and they arrived in October. Mr. Snell held religious services in the house of Mr. Stebbins on the Sunday following his arrival here, and later organized

a Congregational church, of which he was pastor over thirty years. He was a mechanical genius, and invented the principle of the twine binder now in general use.

Naming the Hamlet. During the first fall the question of a name for the place was agitated, and Mr. Dyer himself, it seems, had a preference for Pomfret, but this name did not suit the rest. But it was finally settled in this way: Mr. Dyer invited the whole population to partake of a Christmas dinner at his house, and after the viands were disposed of, when the most happy feeling prevailed, the host started the question as to the town name, and various cognomens suggested. One lady proposed Rushville, which Mr. Walker amended by calling it Rushford. A vote was proposed, and the elective franchise freely accorded to the women. The following document was then drawn up and duly signed: "The undersigned having met at the house of E. K. Dyer at a Christmas supper, voted, that we will vote for the name of Rushford to be the future name of the town 104, range eight, also to be the name of the village near the mouth of Rush creek. Rushford, December 25, 1854. (Signed.) E. K. Dyer, William Johnson, Joseph Otis, Hiram Walker, Joseph Pease, R. H. Valentine, E. T. Dyer, C. Walker, M. C. Otis." The last three were the ladies of Rushford.

Mr. Dyer was soon after appointed a justice of the peace, and during the winter or early spring exercised the functions of his office by uniting in marriage Halvor Sennes with the lady of his choice, it being the first occasion of the kind in town.

Pioneer Days. Mrs. Mary I. West has gathered the facts of the early settlement of Rushford practically as above, but from a somewhat different viewpoint, and her story of those trying times is here reproduced.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Dyer, and son Wallace, the former of whom had been a sailor on the coast of Maine, arrived in La Crosse from the East in August, 1852, and there heard of the Root river. In September of the same year they pushed up the river in a flat boat, landing at what is now Houston, and there staking out a claim. However, in November Mr. Dyer moved up the river and stopped at Cushing's Peak, spending the winter with Mr. Cushing, from whom the peak was named.

In the spring of 1853 Mr. Dyer moved up the river to the present site of Rushford and laid claim to property which in recent times has been owned by Mrs. Otto Foss. In the fall he returned to Houston.

In the spring of 1854 an Indian informed Mr. Dyer that his claim was in danger of being jumped, so he and the family returned and lived in a rail shanty until he built a log house near the present site of the Park Hotel. During this interval no one

else lived on the present site of the city except the Indians. In August the two Dyer children died, and thus bereaved, alone in a strange country, the parents sorrowfully turned their faces toward Houston.

On the way they met Hiram Walker, and after a conversation, it was decided that the Dyers should again return to Rushford and that Walker and his family should also locate there. Accordingly, the Walker party proceeded up the river to Rushford, and the Dyers, after a visit to Houston, followed them a few days later. For a time they lived together in the Dyer cabin, and Mr. Walker soon built himself a cabin on the site occupied in modern times by Hendrick Hendrickson. Following these pioneers other settlers began to arrive.

In the meantime, in June, 1854, Duncan Cameron and Roderick McLeod, from Wisconsin, settled on farms in Rush creek valley, near the northern part of the city. At this time there were two Norwegian families on the south side of the river. In July S. S. Stebbins and Joseph Otis came from La Crosse and after staking out claims, returned for their families. Late in the fall Joseph Otis came with his family and built a cabin near Brooklyn bridge. Later Stebbins and his family arrived and built his cabin on the corner lot west of what in modern times became the site of the Mohan family.

In the winter of 1854-1855 there were located on or near the present site of Rushford the following families: Four American families on the site; adjoining the city and north of the Root river were two Scotch families and one Norwegian family; on the south side of the river there were three Norwegian families and one American family. To the west were four Norwegian families and one American family.

In the spring of 1855 Mr. Dyer sold to Soloman West. In the spring of 1856 Mr. West sold to G. G. Stevens.

Before 1855 mail was brought from La Crosse by kindly disposed travelers, and left at the house of Mr. Stebbins, which served as tavern, place of worship, store and postoffice. In the fall of 1855 a postoffice was established at Looney Valley, over the line in Houston county, with Dr. Willson as postmaster. The first postoffice at Rushford was in the summer of 1857, with C. G. Hulbert as postmaster. Hugh Lampman was the first government mail carrier to bring mail to the hamlet.

The first regular store was built by Otis Bathrick in the spring of 1856.

Municipal History. In 1868 Rushford was incorporated as a city by a special act of the legislature. A single clause, however, was so ambiguous that there was considerable trouble afterwards, as it provided that the city should continue a part of the town

for all purposes not specified in the act. The first city election was held on April 6, 1868. The town election was the next day, and the city dominated everything. In 1869 an amended charter severed the connection between the city and the town. But it was some time before the matter was satisfactorily arranged, as it was complicated by the bridge bond indebtedness which had been incurred before the city was chartered, to the extent of $8,000. The supervisors of the town had voted a tax of $2,000 to help pay these bonds, the county auditor exempted the city from this tax, and suit was brought to compel the latter to bear its share of the burden. When the cause was heard the authorities were required to levy the tax in city and town alike. The bonds were finally paid in 1877 and a new bridge of iron was built in 1879 at a cost of over $5,000.

The first officers elected under the city charter were: Mayor, S. S. Stebbins; councilmen, John Iverson, H. D. Weed, F. M. Smith, T. H. Everts and A. J. Stevens; clerk, John Larkee; justices of the peace, Niles Carpenter and Lewis Peterson; constables, E. S. Hewitt and D. S. Coverdale; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; attorney, T. A. Lebar. The council, on August 4, 1868, moved that an ordinance be drawn to appropriate $500.00 for a building for city use.

1869—Mayor, G. G. Stevens; councilmen, John Iverson, John Hobart, John Albertson, J. E. Atwater and A. J. Stevens; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, G. W. Valentine; justice, Lewis Peterson; constable. R. Weed. February 4, 1869, the amended charter was approved by the council. March 1, 1869, the basement room of Larson's stone house was rented for use as city prison. On this same day the city issued bonds of $200.00 to buy lots owned by S. S. Stebbins, the lots to be those numbered eighty-five and eighty-five, in block eight, of the original plat of Rushford. The property is now occupied by the high school.

1870—Mayor, G. G. Stevens; councilmen, J. E. Atwater, John Iverson, Burr Dauchy, B. F. Tillotson and A. K. Hanson; treasurer, Christian Peterson; recorder, John C. Smith; justices, Lewis Peterson and G. W. Willis; constables, J. F. Reppy and C. G. Philbrick; assessor, Gullik Olson.

1871—Mayor, Henry C. Grover; council, E. Kierland, G. A. Onstine, O. Foss, Hiram Walker and Knudt Olson; treasurer, Christian Peterson; clerk, B. W. Benson; constable, George E. Hall; assessor, Gullik Olson; attorney, E. N. Donaldson; street commissioner, Andrew Jenson.

1872—Mayor, Henry C. Grover; councilmen, A. K. Hanson, G. A. Onstine, O. Foss, D. J. Tew, H. W. Holmes; treasurer, B. W. Benson; clerk, W. L. Osborne; justices, Nels J. Eide, A. Currie; constables, A. W. Rice, Christian Peterson.

1873—Mayor, A. K. Hanson; councilmen, D. J. Tew, Jens F. Humel, C. G. Hulbert, Louis Kundson, Joseph Otis; treasurer, B. W. Benson; clerk, Thomas Kierland; justice, H. G. Reppy; constable, C. G. Philbrick.

1874—Mayor, C. G. Hulbert; councilmen, A. J. Stevens, R. H. Valentine, J. F. Humel, Ole E. Olson, G. G. Stevens; treasurer, Niles Carpenter; clerk, Herman V. Olson; justices, B. F. Tillotson, H. G. Reppy; constables, Horace Dauchy, E. E. Webster.

1875—Mayor, A. J. Stevens; councilmen, T. H. Everts, B. W. Benson, John Albertson, Niles Carpenter, Louis Knudson; treasurer, E. Kierland; clerk, Herman V. Olson; constables, G. P. Blom, A. Beebe. The council this year passed a resolution to secure a city policeman. As a result of this decision C. P. Richardson was appointed.

1876—Mayor, G. G. Stevens; council, B. D. Sprague, S. E. Boyum, Charles Drake, E. Kierland, L. Greiser; treasurer, E. Kierland; clerk, Herman V. Olson; justices, B. F. Tillotson, H. G. Reppy; constables, C. P. Richardson, William Johnson.

1877—Mayor, L. Greiser; councilmen, Charles Drake, Jens Julsrud, Ole Langin, Niles Carpenter, Herman Walker; treasurer, G. G. Stevens; clerk, H. V. Olson; constable, Thomas Murphy. This year the city purchased a lot of G. G. Stevens for the purpose of building a lock-up. At the same time it was decided to build a lock-up 20 by 20 feet, of pine lumber, to be divided into two cells. The location was to be in block one, Stevens fourth addition.

1878—Mayor, B. D. Sprague; councilmen, H. W. Eldred, H. O. Clements, T. H. Everts, J. H. Reppy, C. H. Reishus; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, G. J. Walker; justices, B. F. Tillotson, H. J. Reppy; constable, Ole Holm.

1879—Mayor, G. G. Stevens; councilmen, E. A. Hostvet, F. M. Smith, D. J. Tew, J. W. Magelssen, Ole E. Laugen; clerk, G. J. Walker; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; constables, O. H. Johnson, P. O. Fallang.

1880—Mayor, Henry C. Grover; councilmen, D. J. Tew, F. M. Smith, J. P. Wangsness, T. S. Reishus, J. W. Cram; treasurer, Niles Carpenter; clerk, G. J. Walker; justices, B. F. Tillotson, H. G. Reppe; constable, William Johnson.

1881—Mayor, G. J. Onstine; councilmen, Thomas Kierland, Peter Miller, T. S. Reishus, Charles Drake, M. J. Desmond; treasurer, Niles Carpenter; recorder, Herman V. Olson; constable, Martin H. Iverson.

1882—Mayor, G. J. Onstine; councilmen, D. J. Tew, E. A. Hostres, P. E. Dahl, M. J. Desmond, Charles Drake; treasurer, Lars Norem; clerk, O. S. Berg; justices, G. W. Rockwell, Niles Carpenter; constables, S. W. Walker, E. A. Philbrick.

1883—Mayor, Henry C. Grover; councilmen, Thomas Kierland, Jonathan Webster, John Eggen, Larks Lukkasson, Peter Miller; treasurer, F. M. Smith; clerk, Fred A. Olson; justice, G. H. Hitchcock.

1884—Mayor, G. J. Onstine; council, John P. Wangsness, Ed. Hallahan, J. W. Cram, Michael Miller, A. M. Hanson; treasurer, F. M. Smith; clerk, Lars J. Amble; justice, S. A. Pierce; constables, A. L. Tyler, S. Walker.

1885—Mayor, G. J. Onstine; councilmen, D. J. Tew, Niles Carpenter, Lars Lukkassen, J. W. Magelssen, M. J. Desmond; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, L. J. Amble; justice, G. W. Rockwell; constable, William Bruce. February 25, 1886, the council authorized the organization of Hook and Ladder Co., No. 1, with the following officers: Foreman, Edward Hallahan; first assistant, George Hanson; second assistant, Charles Wilmarth; secretary, A. J. Nelson; treasurer, John Eggen; clerk, Oluf Lee. There were twenty-nine members in this company.

1886—Mayor, N. P. Colburn; councilmen, J. W. Magelssen, Thomas Kierland, Jonathan Webster, Albert Anderson, Niles Carpenter; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, L. J. Amble; justice, S. A. Pierce; constable, A. L. Tyler.

1887—Mayor, M. J. Desmond; councilmen, J. W. Magelssen, Peter Miller, Lars Lukkesson, J. Webster, W. E. Colburn; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, L. J. Amble; justices, Niles Carpenter; C. G. Edwards; constable, William Bruce.

1888—Mayor, Albert Anderson; councilmen, Lewis Knudson, C. C. Hourn, Jens Jelsrud, John Eggen, J. J. Durland; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, L. J. Amble; constable, Oscar Larson.

1889—Mayor, D. J. Tew; councilmen, A. O. Heiberd, W. E. Colburn, E. Kierland, John Eggen, H. O. Berg; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, F. A. Olson; constable, J. O. Iverson.

1890—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, J. Webster; H. Hendrickson, Jr., Peter Miller, Henry C. Grover; G. W. Rockwell; treasurer, A. E. Hazzard; clerk, F. A. Olson; justices, C. H. Hulbert, S. A. Pierce; constable, Andrew Nelson.

1891—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, H. W. Eldred, Henry C. Grover, J. Webster, A. K. Hanson, Jens Julsrud; treasurer, A. E. Hazzard; clerk, F. A. Olson; justices, P. C. Hulbert, S. A. Pierce; constables, L. L. Streeter, A. L. Tyler; assessor, Lars Lukkasson.

1892—Mayor, A. K. Hanson; councilmen, Henry C. Grover, C. W. Gore, Lewis Knudson, Lars Lukkasson, Peter Miller; treasurer, A. E. Hazzard; clerk, F. A. Olson; justices, John Iverson, S. A. Pierce.

1893—Mayor, A. K. Hanson; councilmen, Peter Miller, H. M.

Smith, M. A. Maland, G. W. Rockwell, G. E. Kirkpatrick; treasurer, A. E. Hazzard; clerk, F. A. Olson.

1894—Mayor, H. M. Smith; councilmen, J. Webster, G. W. Rockwell, Lars Lukkasson, P. E. Pederson, Peter Miller; treasurer, A. E. Hazzard; clerk, F. A. Olson; justices, Niles Carpenter, John Iverson.

April 4, 1894, the council moved that $10,000 in bonds be issued, the question be submitted to the people at a special election. The special election was held June 23, 1894, and the $10,000 in bonds was voted. The bonds were ten in number of $1,000 denomination each, drawing interest at 5½ per cent. They were issued August 1, 1894, to Carpenter G. Stevens, for $10,152.50.

1895—Mayor, H. M. Smith; councilmen, H. O. Berg, P. E. Pederson, J. J. Stensing, B. E. Olson, A. E. Hazzard; treasurer, H. M. Hendrickson; clerk, W. F. Drake.

1896—Mayor, M. J. Desmond; councilmen, F. A. Olson, E. J. Eide, H. O. Berg, B. E. Olson, Olaf Lee; treasurer, H. M. Hendrickson; clerk, W. F. Drake; justice, Niles Carpenter.

1897—Mayor, Peter Miller; councilmen, F. A. Olson, H. W. Eldred, Lewis Knudson, H. O. Berg, J. H. Peasley; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, W. F. Drake.

1898—Mayor, H. W. Eldred; councilmen; Philip Miller, J. H. Peasley, John Martin, J. J. Stensing, C. W. Gore; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, W. F. Drake; justice, Niles Carpenter; constable, S. M. Knudson.

1899—Mayor, H. M. Smith; councilmen, J. J. Stensing, John C. Larson, H. O. Berg, A. T. Kjos, Philip Miller; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, W. F. Drake.

1900—Mayor, H. W. Eldred; councilmen, F. A. Olson, C. W. Gore, T. Sundby, N. H. Tofsted, J. H. Peasley; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, W. F. Drake.

1901—Mayor, H. W. Eldred; councilmen, F. A. Olson, T. Sundby, W. F. Drake, Philip Miller, O. Tagland; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; clerk, C. O. Alm.

1902—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, J. Webster, M. J. Desmond, B. E. Olson, O. E. Resishus, T. Sundby; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1903—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, F. A. Olson, B. E. Olson, O. E. Reishus, W. W. Webster, C. L. Foss; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1904—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, B. E. Olson, W. W. Webster, O. E. Reishus, J. J. Stensing, J. G. Robertson; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1905—Mayor, W. W. Webster; council, J. G. Roberton, E. A. Higbum, T. Sundby, Peter Ogard, Milo Bathrick; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1906—Mayor, W. W. Webster; councilmen, J. G. Roberton, E. A. Highum, A. T. Kjos, O. E. Reishus, M. Johnson; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1907—Mayor, F. A. Olson; councilmen, Thomas Ferguson, Charles H. Green, H. Halvorson, E. N. Vigard, John McLeod; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, C. O. Alm.

1908—Mayor, F. A. Olson; councilmen, Thomas Ferguson, W. W. Webster, W. F. Drake, M. C. Eischen, T. Sundby; treasurer, A. K. Hanson; recorder, O. E. Reishus.

1909—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, Peter Miller, C. C. Jensen, H. Halvorson, Joseph Lukkasson, Ole H. Hoararud; treasurer, J. W. Webster; clerk, O. E. Reishus.

1910—Mayor, J. W. Magelssen; councilmen, Peter Miller, C. C. Jensen, C. L. Foss, E. L. Sheldahl, Albert J. Holle; treasurer, J. M. Webster; clerk, O. E. Reishus.

1911—Mayor, W. F. Drake; councilmen, Albert Holle, Peter Miller, E. L. Sheldahl, D. J. Sheroin, W. L. Nerud; treasurer, J. M. Webster; clerk, O. E. Reishus.

1912—Mayor, W. W. Webster; councilmen, Peter Miller, E. L. Sheldahl, Albert J. Holle, W. F. Drake, C. C. Jensen; treasurer, J. M. Webster; clerk, O. E. Reishus; marshals, O. C. Johnson, D. J. McCormick; justices, M. C. Eischen, H. Wornson.

Public Library. In the summer of 1856 the first steps were taken toward the establishment of a public library, Mr. and Mrs. G. G. Stevens being the prime movers. Various methods were taken to raise money, and when the library was opened it was in the store of Mr. Stevens, who donated space in his store for that purpose. Mrs. Stevens was the librarian. It flourished for a while, but was finally closed. In 1898 Mr. Stevens donated building and books to the Stevens Library association for the purpose of establishing a public library. Just at this time the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church sold the church property here and secured permission from the Conference to donate $300.00 for the use of the library. The amount of which was immediately invested in books. In his will, Mr. Stevens left the association $500.00, none of which was to be used for the purchase of books, and C. G. Hulburt left $400.00 to be used solely for the purchase of books. Hitherto the library has been supported by donations. This year the city levies a one mill tax for its support. The present board of directors are: H. W. Eldred, president; H. M. Smith, treasurer; Geo. E. Kirkpatrick, secretary; D. J. Tew, G. W. Rockwell and F. A. Olson. The librarian is Emma Crampton.

RUSHFORD TOWNSHIP.

Rushford is the northeast corner township of the county,

with thirty-six sections in regular form, with Norway on the south, and its former yoke-fellow, Arendahl, on the west. This is emphatically one of the broken towns of the county. The Root river flows into the town from the west, between sections thirty and thirty-one, and running eastward leaves the town and county from section thirteen. Rush creek was so called on account of the tall rushes that grew along its banks, where cattle and ponies could obtain a subsistence all winter. This creek flows from Winona county, and coming in through section four, makes a confluence with the Root river at Rushford city. The valleys are quite wide in some places, and afford tillable land; the ridges are inclined to spread out and are generally under cultivation. The northwestern part of the township has an extensive table, as a part of North Prairie, which extends across the northern part of Arendahl, and is the best farming portion of the northeastern part of the county, although it was at first neglected by the older settlers, who were attracted more particularly to the valleys. The bottom lands of Root river were found by the first comers to be a wide and level tract, bounded on either side by irregular bluffs, with smaller valleys projecting into it from various distances on either side. When first settled it was mostly timber, brush, and grub land. Along the streams and the north side of the bluffs quite large timber was found, elm, maple, and black walnut predominating in the valley, and black, white, and burr oak, with some hickory, on the bluffs. A portion of Root river bottom is particularly adapted to the raising of hay, being a natural meadow, destitute of trees, with a natural growth. There is a higher strip of land, or bench, between this and the bluffs. On the ridges, or table lands, there is a clay soil; in the bottoms, or valleys, it is of a dark character and sometimes sandy, mixed with gravel. There are many fine views to be had from the elevated points on the ridges overlooking the surrounding country. At one time in the geological history of this section the whole land was on a level with the higher points now existing. The valleys have been washed out, completely disintegrating the several strata of rocks, and leaving their rough edges protruding from the sides of the bluffs, often appearing like ruins of ancient castles, with their crumbling entablatures, pilasters, and caratides, and presenting, particularly by moonlight, a striking imitation of the ruins of some ancient city.

Early Settlers. The Root river valley was the first part of the town to be settled, the pioneers being Norwegians, who came directly from Wisconsin by way of McGregor and Decorah, Iowa, with ox teams. The first came in 1853, and were Ole Olson Tuff and Halver Goodrich. Mr. Tuff took a claim in sections twenty-six, twenty-three, and twenty-seven. It is south of the river and

southwest of South Rushford. Mr. Goodrich settled east of Mr. Tuff and put up his shanty on the land in section twenty-six. These men left their families in what is now Yucatan, Houston county, at a settler's residence, and in June came here and selected their land. About the first day of July they returned here with their families. In the same month of July came Erick T. Lien, who drove in with three yoke of oxen and procured a farm in sections sixteen and twenty-one. Ole Berland, secured a place in sections fifteen and twenty-two. His family were still in Norway, and he lived in a little dug-out. A son and a daughter finally came over, but his wife remained on the other side. Erick Glaem took his land in section sixteen. Two years later he brought his wife from Wisconsin. He cultivated his farm up to 1866, when he sold to H. Hendrickson and went to Yellow Medicine county. Peter Peterson Haslerud went further up the valley and took the northeast of section thirty and commenced improvements. He made the farm his home until his death, September 23, 1880. He laid out the village of Peterson and had always been an active and influential man in the community. Arthur B. Bowe, a Vermonter, who had figured conspicuously in the early settlement of Spring Grove, came over here in 1853 and put up a claim shanty near the bluff, in section fifteen. In August, 1853, Gilbert Edmunds came and located in the southeast of section twenty-three, where a part of South Rushford now is. He was from Norway, and a married man. He made improvements, and while loading logs on a wagon in the river bottom was killed in 1855. His widow afterward married H. Hendrickson.

With the party that came in June, 1853, was Ole Torgerson, who also came from Wisconsin and overtook the party at Stevens, in Yucatan, and joining them came on and settled on the land which finally became Roderick McLeod's, on Rush creek, north of the city, but he soon left. Oliver Wilson came through at that time, a lad of 17 years, who assisted E. T. Lien in driving his oxen. He was too young to pre-empt land, so he went to Iowa to work and returned in 1856.

During the winter of 1854 a Mr. Webster came and cultivated some land in section twenty-four, but moved away a few years afterwards. In 1854 several were added to the settlement in town. Swan Werlein located east of E. T. Lien, in section twenty-one, and there remained while he lived. In June, 1854, Roderick McLeod, a native of the north part of Scotland, came from Wisconsin, where he had stopped three years, and claimed 160 acres in sections ten and eleven. Part of this land was lost to him by being jumped. West of the town William Johnson located land in sections fourteen and fifteen, in the fall of that same year.

West of this claim, in August, 1854, S. Thompson Gjernes, a Norwegian, planted a claim. Within a year or two the town was well filled up.

Early Events. Two births occurred at a very early day. George Peterson Haslerud was born November 10, 1853, on section thirty. In October of the same year Jurie E. Lien was born at her father's house in section twenty-one. She lived but eight years and was buried on the farm of St. T. Gjernes. The wife of Ole Olson passed away soon after their arrival in the summer of 1853. At the funeral no one was present but Mr. Tuff and Mr. Goodrich. The boards to make a coffin were taken from the wagon body they had brought. A trapper had previously died some time in the forties, as mentioned elsewhere. The Southern Minnesota, now owned by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, reached Rushford village the first of January, 1867, and for some months it remained the western terminus of the road.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Rushford township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: June 6, Leo Oleson, 24; August 7, Sylvester S. Stebbins, 14; August 24, Martha Edmonds, 23; August 30, Oliver Goodrich, 23-26; December 11, Joseph Otis, 13.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows: January 6, Nuton Olsen, 14-23; January 6, Enoch B. Walrath, 14-23; May 19, Lucius S. Cady, 12-13; June 16, Orrin Thurber, 6; June 19, Duncan Cameron, 11-14; June 19, Hendrick Hendrickson, 24; June 19, Dennis Jacobs, 6; June 19, Roderick McLeod, 11; June 19, Roswell H. Valentine, 3-4; June 24, Elizabeth Wilson, 20; July 3, Reuben Whittemore, 23; July 10, Joshua Emery, 2; July 10, Henry Stage, 3; July 16, Sylvanus Everts, 13; July 25, Walter N. Webster, 24; July 26, William Johnson, 14-15; August 5, John P. Whittemore, 24-25; August 14, Otis Bathrick, 15-22; September 23, Ole Gutormsen, 32-33; September 23, James D. Pierce, 13; September 25, James D. Pierce, 24; October 7, Erick Lien, 21; October 7, Peter Peterson, 19-30; October 7, Ole Rannesson, 22; October 7, Ole Rasmusson, 15; October 7, Sevend Erickson Wesley, 15-21-22; October 8, Patrick McCune, 1; November 4, John Cameron, 10; November 15, Halvor Oleson, 29; November 15, Ole Oleson Tolrud, 30-31; November 19, Truls Gulbranson, 29-31-32; November 19, Andrus Jensen, 8; November 25, Betsey Nims, 11; November 27, Solomon West, 14; November 4, Sturke T. Gjernes, 15; November 4, Lars Larson, 15.

Political. This township was organized May 11, 1858, and

included Arendahl. The town meeting was held at the residence of Peter Peterson, in section thirty. The following were the first town officers elected: Supervisors, Henry Mead (chairman), Lewis Thompson and Ole Torgerson; clerk, G. W. Valentine; assessor, Hiram Walker; collector, C. G. Hulbert; overseer of the poor, R. H. Valentine; constables, C. G. Philbrick and Nels A. Gullickson; justices of the peace, Peter Peterson and Hiram Walker. Arendahl was separated from Rushford in 1860. In 1888 the entire township of Rushford, outside of the city of Rushford, was incorporated as the village of Rushford. The first village board in 1888, according to the books now in the possession of Asmund Vaagen, the present village recorder, consisted of the following: President, Charles Davis; trustees, Henry Stage, H. H. Baker, H. O. Anderson; recorder, George G. West; treasurer, Oliver Wilson.

PETERSON VILLAGE.

Peterson is a lively incorporated village on the Root river and the southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It is well situated and well laid out, and a desirable place of residence. It has good sidewalks, a school which covers half the state high school course, two churches, a newspaper, a bank, good telephone service, street lights, three general stores, one hardware store, postoffice, a casket factory, furniture store, two elevators, a feed mill, a hotel, a sawmill, a restaurant, a clothing store, a wagon shop, a lumber yard, a machine shop, meat market, harness shop, a creamery, a millinery store, a barber shop and the usual complement of professional men. The Modern Woodmen have a flourishing lodge here. The village is surrounded by beautiful scenery. There is excellent fishing within the incorporate limits and small game abounds in nearby groves.

Early History. Soon after the completion of the railroad through Rushford township in 1867, Peter Peterson (Haslerud) gave the railroad company fifteen acres of land and other citizens subscribed to the extent of $800 to secure a station and warehouse. A building was erected for this double purpose, a sidetrack was laid, and the new station was named Peterson. Mr. Peterson at once began buying wheat for eastern parties and the village was thus begun.

In 1870 a postoffice was established, with Even A. Hjelle as postmaster.

In 1873 Lewis Olson erected a building, put in a stock of merchandise and kept a store for about two years. Neri Holgeson also put up a building and opened a store. Ole Ensberg started a blacksmith establishment, and a wagon shop was opened

by E. P. Quickstad.

In 1874 the whole of the quarter section was laid off into lots. Up to this time there had been no ticket office here, but in 1874 Neri Holgeson became ticket agent.

In 1875 Peter Peterson (Haslerud) repurchased from the railroad the sixteen acres which he had parted with several years previous. This year Thompson Brothers purchased a store and started in business here. Johnson, Hourn & Hostvet opened a hardware store, and E. Kierland a drug store. K. Torvilson & Son opened a general store.

In 1876 the telegraph was installed in the station, with G. Peterson (Haslerud) as agent. This year fifteen acres were platted and Prospect, Park, Mill, Centennial, Fillmore and Church street and Murtle avenue were named.

In 1876 a mill was built, surrounding farmers subscribing for most of the stock. The manager died a few years later and the machinery was reclaimed by the company from which it had been purchased. After remaining in idleness for several years the building was fitted up as an elevator and used until 1907 exclusively for cleaning grain in transit. Since that year it has been operated as a farmers' elevator, the volume of business increasing each year until 1911, when the season's shipments reached a total of slightly over 127,000 bushels of all cereals, with a money value of $200,000.

G. P. Haslerud was agent at this station from 1874 to 1903. He resigned rather than pay exhorbitant premiums demanded by surety company which bonded employes of the express company. He is now manager of the Peterson Hardware Co.

Municipal History. Peterson was organized as a village April 15, 1909. Burdett Thayer, assisted by Nels J. Amble, drafted the bill to incorporate 320 acres. The bill was introduced in January, 1909, in the Minnesota legislature, and passed both houses successfully, becoming effective in February of the same year. Immediately after the passing of the bill the organization was undertaken. Details of the organization and incorporation were perfected and the first election took place April 27, 1909, in the office of Nels J. Amble. The judges of election were John Skarstad and John Smaby. The clerk of election was A. O. Boyum. The officers elected were: President, Nels J. Amble; trustees, N. J. Smaby, Olaus Ensberg, C. R. Moen; treasurer, O. S. Retrum; clerk, Carl Johnson; justices, O. A. O. Moen, I. A. Boyum; constables, C. J. Wolstad, W. A. Wenneson (the latter did not qualify); assessor, Elmer Halvorson.

1910—President, N. J. Smaby; trustees, Olaus Ensberg, A. O. Boyum, J. P. Quickstad; treasurer, O. S. Retrum; clerk, Carl

Johnson; justices, J. C. Dayton, J. J. Skarstad; constables, B. C. Benson, Ole P. Bye.

1911—President, Nels J. Amble; trustees, Olaus Ensberg, J. P. Quickstad, A. O. Boyum; treasurer, O. S. Retrum; clerk, Carl Johnson; justice, Carl A. Smaby; assessor, Elmer Halvorson.

1912—President, N. J. Amble; trustees, J. P. Quickstad, A. O. Boyum, N. J. Smaby; treasurer, T. R. Benson; clerk, Carl Johnson; justice, George Austad; constables, M. B. Gullickson, Fred Green. C. A. Smaby, elected justice in 1911, resigned May 1. this year.

Milo White

CHAPTER XXII

CHATFIELD CITY AND TOWNSHIP.

Location and Advantages—Early Days—Reminiscences of Hon. Milo White—Chatfield in 1858—Land Office—Municipal History and Public Improvements—Commercial Club—Early Settlement of Chatfield Township—Land Office Records.

Chatfield, the metropolis of northern Fillmore county, and southern Olmsted county, has a population of 1,228, being exceeded in population by but one city in Fillmore county, and but one city in Olmsted county. It has been known for its progressiveness since the earliest days, having at one time wrested the county seat honors from Winona. Here were enacted many of the important incidents of of the early days of Fillmore county. The city is now prosperous, has a fine electric light and waterworks system, is well shaded, has many fine walks, and excellent streets, good schools, many churches, ample fire protection, a public library and rest room, extensive telephone service, two banks, a progressive newspaper, a hustling Commercial club, many handsome residences, and the usual amount of business and professional activities.

Chatfield is on the left bank of the Root river, fifty miles from its confluence with the Mississippi, and at the mouth of Chatfield creek. It is on a broad and picturesque plateau, forty feet or so above the river toward which it gently inclines. It commands an extensive prospect in all directions, except the northwest, where abrupt buffs interpose. Numerous springs gush out from the hillside. Looking north the valleys of three rivers challenge the admiration of the beholder; looking west the eye can feast on forest scenery, and southeasterly, as the valley expands, beautiful farms with woodland and prairie and bold headlands meet the admiring gaze, and eastward is seen a picturesque bluff with a high and fertile prairie beyond.

A brief directory of the principal business houses would read as follows:

General dry goods stores, C. H. White, Strafford &. Atchison, F. W. Shimer, C. M. Culver. Hardware, H. H. Heydon, John

Blonigan, George Underleak. Plumbing, L. M. Lumbard. Drugs, F. G. Barnard & Son, E. W. Buzzell & Co. Clothing, P. H. Laivell, F. A. Mundell. Groceries, Otto Rippe. Wonder store, H. C. Graves. Meat markets, Anthony Sharp, Henry & Siegel. Restaurants, Olson restaurant, O'Keef restaurant. Glove factory, A. E. Briggs. Harness, H. E. Nelson, E. J. Sutherland. Coal and grain, Caw & Lynch, Western Elevator Co. Lumber, Chatfield Lumber Co., Independent Lumber Co. Undertaker, J. P. Williams. Furniture, Towey & Hoffman, Hans Jorgensen, J. L. Etnier, C. H. Anderson. Notions and crockery, Frank Underleak. Monuments, F. A. Jennings. Photographer, A. A. Houghton. Tailor and ladies' furnishings, S. L. Peterson. Bakery, N. Seeley. Implements, E. J. Sutherland.

EARLY HISTORY.

A former publication has said: "The first man to arrive at the point where the city of Chatfield now stands was T. B. Twiford, who passed through here in 1853, on his way from below to Winona, and the situation so attracted his attention, that he induced a party of eleven persons to return with him, and the village was laid out, and slowly at first, buildings began to be erected. G. W. Willis and James McClellan, with William B. and E. B. Gere, T. J. Safford, S. A. Sturgis and others were of the party.

"The first building put up in the village was a log tavern on the corner of Main and First streets. G. W. Willis was the proprietor, who kept it for some time, and then S. A. Sturgis and Isaac Day managed it. Simeon Crittenden came from Ohio and arrived here on September 20, 1854. He preëmpted a claim near town and went into the carpenter and real estate business. Dennis Jacobs came in August, 1854, located in the village, and remained here until 1880. J. C. Easton was an early settler and went into the banking business. Henry Wilder bought a stock of goods in 1854, which he exposed for sale in a log building. Solomon Ashley got here in July, 1854, and put up a house and went into the boarding house business. Frank Whitney came here in 1854, and took some land about a mile and a half from the village, in the south, and in two years went to Pilot Mound. Jack Bolsinger came here from Iowa in 1854, and opened a store, and continued the business two years. F. A. Coffin, in 1854, located north of the town. J. McClellan commenced the erection of a store and dwelling, and a stock of goods was put in. This was on the corner of Fillmore and First streets. Gere & Edwards started a real estate office in 1854, and this business seemed to flourish, for in 1858, there

were thirteen real estate firms in town. The first sawmill was started in 1854, by T. B. Twiford, and before completion was purchased by Col. J. R. Jones who completed it. The mill was run by waterpower, and was equipped with a sash saw. T. J. Safford put up a store and placed a stock of goods in it, and also lived in the same building. The postoffice was established in 1854."

Reminiscences of Hon. Milo White. Hon. Milo White, the venerable former congressman now living in Chatfield, reached this place in 1855. He has written the following article for this history regarding the early days:

May 10, 1855, I arrived in Chatfield and found a stopping place or hotel kept by Isaac Day in a log house built in 1854. This hotel was a comfortable place. T. J. Safford and Alexander Sturgis each had a general store. G. M. Gere had a shoe shop. James McClellan had built a frame house in 1854, and in the winter of 1854-55 opened a little store in the front end of it. J. R. Jones had a sawmill on Mill creek, near the school section in what was afterward named Elmira township, Olmsted county, the townships then being unnamed. Mr. Jones was a lawyer, a prominent and honored citizen.

There was little else here in the way of business. Everyone was talking land. Many of the few settlers had claims to sell, although their titles consisted only of their names, or the names of their friends, written in pencil on the stakes set by the government surveyors at the corner of each quarter section.

July 4, 1855, I started for Decorah, Iowa, with our horses to buy flour. I found my way to the state line at Elliota, although no work had as yet been done on the road. The inborn spirit of patriotism broke out and a celebration was held. Thus, wherever a few American citizens are gathered together, in the cities, in the country, on the frontier or in foreign lands, the glorious Fourth is honored and reverenced, and I hope it ever will be.

Northern Iowa had been settled before southern Minnesota, and we were thus enabled to obtain flour in the summer and dressed pork in winter.

The fall rains of 1855 had made the trails very difficult for travel, and the journey was very hard on our horses. In those days horses did practically all the cartage for the people of Fillmore and Olmsted counties. I remember that once, on such a trip, coming from Decorah, we found that we could not get our wagon across the south branch of the Root river at Preston. So we crossed on our horses and helped build a bridge across the mill race which John Kaercher had built to furnish power for his mill. The next day we found another barrier in

Watson's creek. The creek was very deep, but narrow, and fortunately I found a large tree which had blown down across the creek. Consequently, using this tree as a bridge, I carried the flour across on my back in hundred pound sacks. Then we put the team through the creek, and arrived home just in time to find the people dividing up their last flour, giving a few pounds to each family.

In 1856 the population of Chatfield had increased and schools and churches were organized. The Baptists built a church in 1856, and others later. A schoolhouse was built in 1856, and a school on the north side in Olmsted county became district one, in that county. H. E. Loomis, the first teacher in this district one, Olmsted county, is still living here, after more than five decades and a half. Mrs. C. C. Onstine, reputed to be the first public school teacher in Fillmore county is also living here.

It was in 1856 that the land office was moved from Brownsville to Chatfield, and a large influx of population set in to the village and the surrounding country. Land became an article of trade. Eighty acres of good land could be obtained for a pair of horses. Or a man could pay a little money down on a piece of land, and give a mortgage for the rest. Farms were opened, new houses were erected in the village, and it seemed that the wave of prosperity was well on its way.

But 1857 found many of the people out of money, and the trade slackened, causing the failure of many of the merchants. In 1857 the wheat was a complete failure, and then ensued the hard times. Then came the year 1858 with its good crops, and thereupon began the shipments of wheat, which was exchanged for the money which the farmers so badly needed. Then indeed the horse became man's best friend, carrying the productions of the fertile land to the Mississippi river, and bringing back supplies and lumber.

Hauling wheat became a regular business when the great crop of 1859 was harvested. It required labor to take the wheat, clean it, sack it and load it to be hauled to Winona, and so I built a small warehouse, being the first to pay cash for grain in our town.

In the winter we had our goods shipped to La Crosse and hauled by team from there. I remember that one of my wheat teams got in the river and was drowned. A box of hardware of mine and some of the other goods which the team was carting are in the river yet for all I know.

The wheat trade gave employment to many, and the young men who were opening farms needed to earn all the money they could.

The crop of 1860 was very good and was not all sold when our piping times of peace was broken in 1861 by the war. I never shall forget the day Fort Sumpter was fired upon. I was in Milwaukee at the time. The people were excited. A dry goods box was put on a street and patriotic speeches made. Regrets were expresed for the effect it would have but no one expected four years of bloody conflict.

Chatfield did its duty and sent her quota of good soldiers when Abraham Lincoln called for men. Those who intending to get into the First Regiment had to go as Company A of the Second Regiment. Captain Bishop returned a general. His company made an honorable record. Many men who enlisted left their wives and children poorly provided for, especially those that stayed four years. Yet those blessed women would suffer and toil in silence through the war.

We stay-at-homes did not long enjoy all peace, for in 1862 the Indian War came with all its horrors. Gov. Alexander Ramsay authorized proper agents to take supplies for the Indian fighters who were defending the frontier and they came and took from my store such as they pleased, which the state paid for later. Some who had gone from here and settled far west came flocking back to safety, saying the Indians were not far away and would soon be here unless effective work was done. That induced volunteers to go out and that cleared the sulkers off the prairies west of us, the battle of New Ulm helped stay the on-coming savages and the hanging of thirty-seven Sioux on one scaffold had a very quieting effect. The Indians had no doubt grievances and knew no other way to get redress than by murdering women and children, though we hope that they have learned of better ways.

Now, after fifty-seven years of life here and more than eighty in all, we lay down the work for others to carry on and we recall many incidents of the past in our life, and are happy in knowing that we helped make a prosperous state with more than two million people.

Reminiscences of G. H. Haven. G. H. Haven, who has been prominently identified with the growth of Chatfield for many years, has prepared for this work an article dealing with these early days when Chatfield was the metropolis of southern Minnesota. His article follows:

The land upon which the original town plat of Chatfield is situated was entered at the United States Land Office at Brownsville, Minn., as follows: The northwest quarter of section five, town 104, range eleven, by Grove W. Willis on August 10, 1854; the northeast quarter of section six, same town and range, by Thomas B. Twiford on August 8, 1854. The plat of the village

was filed for record August 28, 1854. At various dates thereafter additions to the original plat have been platted and recorded, including T. B. Twiford's Addition, Twiford & Co.'s Addition, Bristol & Jacobs' Addition, A. T. Kinson's Addition, O'Ferrell's Addition and in recent years J. R. Jones' and L. A. Johnson's Additions.

The first boom for Chatfield came in the spring of 1856 when the United States Land Office was moved here from Brownsville, Minn. This brought a considerable influx of population, including, during the year 1856, a number of men who afterwards filled public and other offices of importance in the state and territory. Among these were C. G. Ripley, afterwards chief justice of the state; Gordon E. Cole, who became attorney general; Charles McElrath, later auditor of the state; James M. Cavanaugh, one of the first members of congress from Minnesota; James B. Power, afterwards land commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railway, and William B. Gere, United States marshal of the state of Minnesota.

When the first call for troops was made at the beginning of the Civil War in April, 1861, the Chatfield Guards, a militia company, which had been in training for some time, responded to this call, most of its members volunteering in defense of their country. They were ready to start for Fort Snelling in April, but as the first regiment of the Minnesota volunteers was filled from towns nearer St. Paul, they did not leave Chatfield until June 22, 1861, becoming Company A of the Second Regiment, J. W. Bishop being captain and Charles Haven first lieutenant. The latter died at Nashville during the early part of the war and Captain Bishop rose to the rank of brigadier general by brevet, which position he held at the close of the war. Companies for the Fifth, Eighth and Eleventh Regiments were largely recruited from Chatfield and its vicinity, and many enlisted in other regiments than those mentioned. The volunteers from Chatfield and the surrounding country had an honorable and many of them a brilliant record in the Civil War.

One of the most notable movements in Chatfield at an early day was the establishment of the Chatfield Academy in September, 1858, with J. W. Bishop, afterwards colonel of the Second Regiment, as principal and Sarah J. Knight as assistant principal. This really excellent school attracted students from Winona and Rochester during its first year and continued for several years, when, after a system of graded schools had been provided for, its existence was no longer a necessity and it gave place to the public schools.

Chatfield wrestled with the railroad problem for more than twenty years before a railroad was finally built to the town. The

Root River Valley Railroad, a land grant road, was surveyed through the town in 1857, but no actual work was done on any road towards Chatfield until 1868. At that time $65,000 bonds were voted, payable upon the completion of a branch extending from a point on the Southern Minnesota, near Fountain, to Chatfield. Nearly one-half of the work in grading this branch was done in the years 1868-1869, when, on account of lack of funds, the project collapsed and was never revived. Various surveys were made and different projects considered from time to time, but it was not until 1878 that a branch of the Chicago & Northwestern was actually completed to Chatfield, the first train passing over the branch in November of that year. Chatfield contributed $35,000 to the cost, the adjoining town of Elmira $10,000 and Jordan $5,000.

Small stores were conducted in 1854 and 1855 by James McLellan (said to be the first merchant in Chatfield), Bolsinger & Simons, T. J. Safford and possibly others, but it was not until 1856 that large and well assorted stocks of general merchandise were brought to Chatfield, the principal stores at that time being conducted by Bailey & White, S. A. Sturgis, Sebring & Sawyer, Augustus Haven, Forres & McLarty, and T. J. Safford. The business of Milo White, of the first named firm, succeeding to its business in 1857, was continued without interruption until he sold to his son, Charles H. White, in 1901, who still maintains the business. Augustus Haven, at his death in 1863, was succeeded by his son, George H. Haven, who operated the store until 1888 when he closed it out and bought the Root River Bank from J. C. Easton. Safford was succeeded at an early day by Charles M. Lovell, whose business was continued, from his death in 1892, by Frank W. Shimer. Levi Bemis was a prominent merchant in Chatfield for many years, being succeeded by Culver & Gould and Charles M. Culver. The first hardware store was established in 1856 by Badger & Harris, and the first drug store soon after by Eggleston & Barnard, succeeded by F. G. Barnard and F. G. Barnard & Son, by whom it is conducted at the present time.

"The Chatfield Democrat," the first newspaper, was established in 1856 and published continuously until 1902, when it was consolidated with the "News," and is still published as the "News-Democrat." "The Chatfield Republican" was established soon after the "Democrat," but after being published a few years, was removed to Preston.

The original flouring mill was opened for business in 1857 by Samuel T. Dickson and was operated until it burned down. A large flouring mill was built two miles from the city in 1874 by Dickson, Easton & Johnson, at the cost of $50,000. Wheat raising having since been almost entirely abandoned, it became unprofit-

able, and the building and power have for some years been used by the Chatfield Electric Light Company. Other flouring mills in Chatfield and its immediate vicinity have been operated by James M. Cussons and John J. Beitzan. The Chatfield Woolen Mill was established by Griswold & Crissey in 1867 and successfully conducted by this firm and its successors until July, 1896, when the mill was totally destroyed by fire.

The country in the vicinity of Chatfield, with its numerous creeks and the two branches of Root river, is especially adapted to dairying. A cheese factory was conducted in the village for several years with moderate success. In the year 1881 the cheese factory property was purchased by the Chatfield Creamery Company and a creamery with a large patronage was successfully established under the superintendency of H. A. Holmes, of Iowa. At that time there was only one other creamery in this part of Minnesota and cream was brought to Chatfield from a large territory. With the multiplication of creameries the area contributing to this creamery has been materially reduced, but it still has a large patronage and turns out butter of the highest grade. About ten years after it was started it was sold to the farmers who supported it, and since that date has been conducted on the co-operative plan.

Wheat was the principal crop of this section until 1878. The wheat crop of 1877 was perhaps as abundant as any produced in this region, while that raised the next year was almost a failure, both as to quantity and quality. The wheat failure continued for twenty years, so that it was practically abandoned as a crop to be depended upon. The farmers were gradually driven to diversify their crops, so that at present there are few sections more diversified. This change has been of great permanent advantage to the country, although many, who were in debt, lost their farms before the change was brought about. Corn is now the most valuable grain crop, with barley and oats ranking next. Timothy and clover seeds, rye and flax vary in acreage and importance from year to year. Only small fields of wheat (five to ten acres to the 160-acre farm) are raised. Hay is a very valuable crop and cattle, hogs and sheep bring a large income to the farmers. Silos are coming into quite general use and nearly all farmers are realizing the importance of scientific methods in agriculture.

At the time of the early settlement of Chatfield a body of timber from three to five miles wide extended up and down Root river. A saw mill was placed in operation by Jud Crissey in 1856 and continued its work for ten or twelve years. This "timber land" has now, for the most part, given place to small farms, although a saw mill conducted by Kaiserlik Bros. does considerable business.

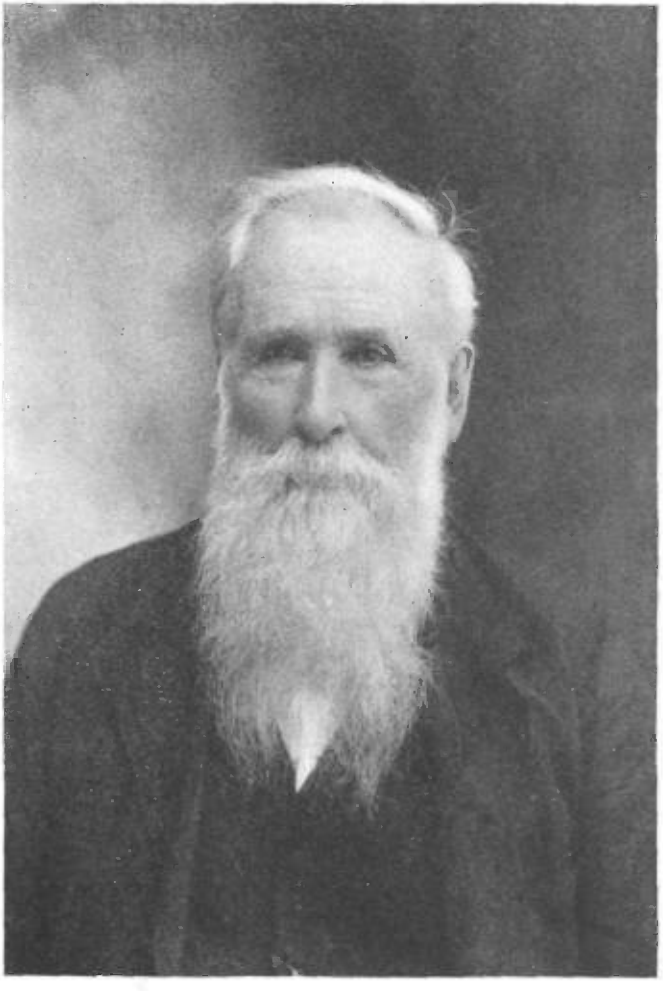
Chatfield in 1857. In 1857 Chatfield was the most flourishing town in southern Minnesota. On January 1 of that year, a local directory reveals the following: Four dry goods and grocery stores, three grocery and provision stores, eleven dealers in real estate, five lawyers, three doctors, three civil engineers, two hotels, one watchmaker, one stove and tinware shop, one boot and shoe shop, one livery stable, one Masonic lodge.

Chatfield in 1858. Following is a brief business directory of Chatfield published in 1858. Langworthy, O'Ferrall & Co. (I. F. O'Ferrall and S. C. Langworthy), bankers and real estate; Dexter & Ripley (Edward Dexter and C. G. Ripley), bankers and real estate; Nickolls & Co. (G. L. Nikolls and J. M. Cavanaugh), land agents; Osborn & Son, land agents; Morse & Bristol, lawyers and land agents; William B. Gere, lawyer and land agent; Jason C. Easton, successor to Gilbert & Easton, land agent; Simeon Crittenden, real estate; C. McIlrath & Co., land agents; Holley & Brown, real estate; J. R. Jones & Co., law and real estate; Edwards & Sharpe, land agents; Draper & Bro., land agents; A. Haven, general store; T. F. Goff, general store; C. M. Lovell, general store; Forres & McLarty, general store; C. C. Abbott, hardware; George C. Sherwin, furniture; D. G. Bailey, general store; F. G. Barnard, jeweler; S. Badger & Co., furniture and hardware; Joseph Schambault, boots and shoes; Datus Stevens, carpenter; Chatfield Flouring Mill (Jones & Dickson), William A. Spornitz, harness maker; R. W. Twitchell, M. D., physician and surgeon; O. P. Knox, master mason; Medary House (Cole & Glasgow); B. N. Ohlhues, liquors and cigars; John Manheim, billiard and oyster saloon; steam mill, J. Crissey; Fillmore Nursery, Sauer & Brother; James M. Cavanaugh, attorney; Wilson House, Charles Wilson; billiard saloon, Henry Hackney; Simeon Smith, lawyer; G. W. Willis, attorney.

A description of Chatfield published in 1858, contains the following information which shows the progress which the village had made even at that early date.

"The village now contains more than a thousand actual inhabitants, and its buildings, for comfort and elegance, will not suffer by comparison with those of eastern towns of similar population. The development of the manufacturing interests of the town is as yet, but commenced. The rapidly increasing demand for manufactured articles in a new and growing settlement, with the high prices for transportation, must soon add largely to the present investments in manufacturing here. The branches most needed at present are an iron foundry and machine shop, a tannery, carriage shops, a manufactory of agricultural implements and the like. A good paper mill could hardly fail to prove a profitable investment, there being none

in the state, while the consumption of the article is very great. A fine flouring mill was completed last summer, by Jones & Dickson, at a cost of over $15,000. It is now making a first rate article of flour; and in capacity and perfection of arrangement is surpassed by none in the county. There are three sawmills; one a steam mill, with lath and shingle saws connected with it, is owned by Mr. Crissey; and one by H. L. Edwards, is a fine water-mill, with lath and shingle saws, turning lathe, and corn-mill, attached. Mr. Sherwin has erected a fine three story building, for the manufacture of furniture, cabinet and turned work; and Badger & Harris have on hand at their warerooms a large assortment of furniture and house trimmings. A brick yard, adjoining the town, is being successfully worked, and good building stone is quarried close at hand. Connected with the business of the land office, there has been, and is now, a large amount of capital employed in the business of exchange banking, loaning money, and land warrants, entering land on time for pre-emptors, and general dealing in real estate and securities. The firms employed in this branch of business have proved themselves to be enterprising, liberal, public spirited and honorable men. They have invested largely in the town and vicinity, and are ever ready to encourage whatever tends to promote her interests. Of general dealers and dry goods, and the like, there are six firms—one hardware and stove dealer—several grocery and provision dealers—with the miscellaneous branches usually found in a place of its size, except, perhaps, a book store and a bakery. Of attorneys, physicians and surgeons there is a goodly nuuber here, and for education, talent, and thorough knowledge of their respective professions, they rank deservedly high. There are here societies of Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists, all of which are well supported, and the two last named have provided commodious places of worship. Two excellent schools have been in successful operation during the past winter, and are to be continued, throughout the summer. Arrangements are being made for the opening of an Academical School here in the coming autumn; and the community is of that class who will liberally support such institutions. There are here two weekly newspapers, both established in 1856, and liberally sustained by the citizens of the town and vicinity. The "Chatfield Democrat" is published every Saturday by C. C. Hemphill. It supports the present administration and advocated generally the principles of the Democratic party. The "Chatfield Republican" is published every Wednesday, by Holley & Brown. It upholds the name of William H. Seward, as candidate for the presidency in 1860, and is the organ of the Republican party in the county



WILLIAM A. PEASE

and vicinity. These newspapers are ably conducted and well-printed, and furnish weekly information of Minnesota matters. Medary House, is a new, large, and commodious hotel, superbly furnished, and kept in first class order by the deservedly popular proprietors, Cole and Glasgow. It has ample accommodation for two hundred guests. The Wilson House is also a comfortable hotel kept by the proprietor, Charles Wilson. This house has recently been refurnished and is now in complete order for the entertainment of the public. The Chatfield House and City Hotel are good houses, though of humbler pretentioes."

Land Office. The Root river or Brownsville Land District comprised the five southern tier of townships, extending from the Mississippi westward to the territorial limits. The office was opened, at Brownsville, on the Mississippi, Aug. 1, 1854. It was moved to Chatfield, June 12, 1856. Major John R. Bennett was the register and Capt. John H. McKenney, the receiver. In 1860 the office was removed to Winnebago City.

Municipal History. Chatfield was incorporated as a village in 1857. The first officers of the village were: Council, H. B. Morse (president), John R. Jones A. Haven and I. Cole.

An act to incorporate the city of Chatfield was approved by the legislature February 19, 1887. The boundaries were established as follows: The south half of section thirty-one, 105, eleven, Olmsted county; the east half of section six, 104, eleven, the east half of the southwest quarter of section six, 104, eleven, the northwest quarter section of section five, 104, eleven, the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section five, 104, eleven, and the north half of the southwest quarter of section five, 104, eleven. The chartered officers were: Mayor, George Prey; aldermen, William Strafford, I. M. Higley, Hiram Fairbanks; recorder, Joseph Underleak; city justice, J. W. Russell; justice of the peace, R. W. Twitchell; constable, C. E. Hodkingson; treasurer, C. M. Culver.

1887—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, C. H. White, J. S. Gove, F. W. Shimer; recorder, S. M. Onstine; treasurer, H. H. Rowe; city justice, J. W. Twitchell; justice of the peace, William Smith; constable, John W. Scott.

1888—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, F. W. Shimer, C. H. White, J. S. Gove; recorder, S. M. Onstine; treasurer, H. H. Rowe.

1889—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, C. H. White, J. S. Gove, F. W. Shimer; recorder, C. L. Thurber; treasurer, George H. Haven; city justice, R. W. Twitchell; justice of the peace, A. V. Jennings; constable, John W. Scott. The voters declared in favor of license.

1890—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, F. W. Shimer, C. H. White, William Strafford; recorder, C. L. Thurber; treasurer, George H. Haven. License was voted this year.

1891—Mayor, Milo White; aldermen, C. G. Bolles, Michael Burke, George Piny; recorder, George L. Gould; treasurer, A. L. Ober; city justice, J. W. Russell; justice, John Chermack; constable, Charles W. Payne. The voters declared in favor of license.

1892—Mayor, Milo White; aldermen, F. W. Shimer, G. W. Perry, Michael Burke; recorder, George L. Gould; treasurer, George H. Haven. The voters declared in favor of no license.

1893—Mayor, F. W. Shimer; aldermen, George W. Perry, A. L. Ober, William Strafford; recorder, W. H. Silsbee; treasurer, George H. Haven; city justice, J. W. Russell; justice, Duval McKenny; constable, Charles W. Payne. The voters declared in favor of license.

1894—Mayor, F. W. Shimer; aldermen, G. W. Perry, C. M. Culver, William Strafford; recorder, W. H. Silsbee; treasurer, George H. Haven. The voters declared in favor of license.

1895—Mayor, F. W. Shimer; aldermen, George W. Perry, T. R. Hamilton, C. M. Culver; recorder, W. H. Silsbee; treasurer, George H. Haven; city justice, Duval McKenny; justice, James Laird; constable, C. W. Payne.

1896—Mayor, A. L. Ober; aldermen, George W. Perry, C. M. Culver, F. J. Halloran; recorder, C. H. White; treasurer, George H. Haven. The voters declared in favor of license.

1897—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, Hiram Fairbanks, W. W. Murphy, E. C. Coffin; recorder, J. Ross; treasurer, George H. Haven; city justice, Duval McKenny; justice, J. W. Russell; constable, C. W. Payne. The voters declared in favor of license.

1898—Mayor, J. C. Dickson; aldermen, J. D. Jones, H. L. Atchison, W. W. Murphy; recorder, J. D. Caw; treasurer, A. L. Ober. The voters declared in favor of license.

1899—Mayor, F. W. Shimer; aldermen, J. D. Jones, Milo H. White, W. W. Murphy; recorder, J. D. Caw; treasurer, A. L. Ober; city justice, Duval McKenny; justice, J. W. Russell; constable, C. W. Payne. The voters declared in favor of license.

1900—Mayor, F. W. Shimer; aldermen, J. D. Jones, F. J. Halloran, Milo White, Jr.; recorder, Anthony Sharp; treasurer, A. L. Ober. The voters declared in favor of license.

1901—Mayor, C. M. Cooper; aldermen, F. L. Hill, C. V. Ferguson, F. M. Davis; recorder, Anthony Sharp; treasurer, A. L. Ober; city justice, T. B. Clawson; justice, Joseph Marshall; constable, C. W. Payne.

1902—Mayor, A. L. Ober; aldermen, F. J. Halloran, W. W.

Murphy, Milo White, Jr.; recorder, A. J. Waters; treasurer, A. L. Lombard. The voters declared in favor of license.

1903—Mayor, F. J. Halloran; aldermen, H. H. Heydon, S. E. Bibbins, J. D. Caw; recorder, C. V. Ferguson; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; city justice, T. B. Clawson; justice, Duval McKenny. The voters declared in favor of license.

1904—Mayor, F. J. Halloran; aldermen, J. D. Caw, S. E. Bibbins, H. H. Heydon; recorder, C. V. Ferguson; treasurer, Sidney Burnap. The voters declared in favor of license.

1905—Mayor, H. H. Heydon; aldermen, J. D. Caw, F. C. Lovell, Edward David; recorder, D. E. Dunham; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; city justice, Duval McKenny; constable, Edward Howard.

1906—Mayor, S. E. Bibbins; aldermen, W. H. Lynch, H. G. Case, E. H. David; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; recorder, D. E. Dunham. The voters declared in favor of license.

1907—Mayor, C. M. Cooper; aldermen, H. H. Heydon, William Strafford, W. J. Wright; recorder, D. E. Dunham; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; city justice, T. B. Clawson; constable, Edward Howard. The voters declared in favor of license.

1908—Mayor, C. M. Cooper; aldermen, H. H. Heydon, George W. Perry, W. J. Wright; recorder, D. E. Dunham; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; justice, S. T. McGrew. This year the voters declared in favor of issuing $2,500 bonds for the building in company with the township, of a city and town hall on lot ten, block eleven, in the city of Chatfield.

1909—Mayor, C. M. Cooper; aldermen, S. E. Bibbins, F. L. Tesca, William Strafford; recorder, D. E. Dunham; treasurer, Sidney Burnap; city justice, T. B. Clawson; constable, Edward Howard. The voters declared in favor of no license.

1910—Mayor, C. M. Cooper; aldermen, W. H. Ball, S. E. Bibbins, F. L. Tesca; recorder, D. E. Dunham; treasurer, F. G. Stoudt. The voters declared in favor of no license.

1911—Mayor, Joseph Underleak; aldermen, S. E. Bibbins, Sidney Burnap, C. H. Anderson; recorder, F. W. Shimer; treasurer, F. G. Stoudt; city justice, Duval McKenny; constable, Edward Howard. The voters declared in favor of no license.

1912—Mayor, Joseph Underleak; aldermen, Sidney Burnap, S. E. Bibbins, C. H. Anderson; recorder, F. W. Shimer; treasurer, Knute Olson.

March 8, 1887, the council passed an ordinance locating the city prison in a brick building to be known as a city hall, in lot nine, block eleven. April 29, 1897, an ordinance was passed authorizing Joseph Underleak and his successors and assigns to erect, maintain and operate an electric light plant and to supply electric lights and power to the city. Under this act

the Underleak plant still supplies the electric service of Chatfield.

Waterworks. August 6, 1889, the city purchased from R. W. Twitchell for waterworks purposes an acre of land, located a half mile from the center of the city, in Olmsted county. A reservoir was constructed, twenty feet deep, sixty feet in diameter and with a capacity of 14,500 barrels. September 6, 1894, $5,000 was voted to extend the system, the work being finished that winter. June 4, 1905, $3,000 in bonds was voted to complete the works. Only $2,500 of this was used. The system is now very efficient. The value complete is $20,000. There are three and a half miles of mains with thirty-four hydrants, and the hose equipment is sufficient so that any place in the platted portion can be easily reached, thus affording ample fire protection.

Fire Department. The Fire, Hose, Hook & Ladder Company of Chatfield, was organized May 4, 1891, when a number of citizens met at the city hall. The meeting was presided over by F. L. Tesca and F. G. Shumway was the secretary. G. A. Chase was elected fire marshal. May 11, the meeting was called to order by G. A. Chase, and F. G. Shumway was elected temporary secretary. The constitution and by-laws were adopted and signed by W. H. Brown, William McLaughlin, Frank Hill, Frank Kadletr, J. W. Scott, John P. Gillin, James Batterson, A. J. Hardy, Fred Wilson, William Hickey, J. Jorgensen, A. C. Rosequist, G. A. Chase, F. G. Shumway, W. H. Ellis, W. H. Elwood, F. W. Shimer, Milo White, Jr., John A. Flindt, F. L. Barnard, S. L. Peterson, John Chemark, J. L. Gould, A. L. Ober, Frank Waters, C. H. White, Daniel Marron, J. P. Williams, I. H. Sawyer, Lincoln Craine, Walter Jones, E. J. Lynch, J. D. Sanderson, James Underleak, Frank Hill, U. J. Wright. The following officers were elected: Foreman, F. W. Shimer; first assistant, W. H. Ellis, second assistant, Fred Williams; treasurer, William McLaughlin; secretary, F. G. Shumway. July 7, 1891, the council elected the following officers of the department: Chief engineer, F. W. Shimer; first assistant, A. L. Ober; second assistant, C. H. White. The department at once started raising money by giving a ball. This event which is given annually is now the principal social gathering of each season. The fire equipment is housed in the city hall.

The present officers are: Chief, Robert Means; first assistant, Harry Etnier; second assistant, J. D. Caw; treasurer, F. G. Stoudt; secretary, C. H. Fairbank. The present members: J. D. Caw, E. F. Harnish, F. G. Stoudt, F. A. Hamilton, U. J. Wright, W. H. Silsbee, C. H. Fairbank, Henry Laivell, Harry Etnier, A. J. Hardy, F. W. Shimer, F. L. Barnard, John Chemark,

Joseph Chemark, Tony Sharp, C. H. White, Joseph Underleak, Robert Means, Boyd Shimer, J. L. Delaney, J. Williams, George Smith, Edward David.

Public Library and Rest Room. In the fall of 1910, the rest room was established, the Commercial club paying for the light and heat and the W. C. T. U. furnishing the matron. After about six months it was suggested that a library could be established in connection with the rest room at no additional expense. The Commercial club appointed a committee of two, and a canvass was taken of the city, resulting in the donation of 1,000 volumes. Soon afterward the council took charge of the library under the state law. The institution now has about 2,500 volumes and is in great popular favor.

The Chatfield Library Association was incorporated January 2, 1874, with the following named persons as its first officers: J. S. Sawyer, president; G. L. Case, vice president; G. H. Haven, secretary, and R. A. Case, treasurer. It began with about 350 volumes, costing $600.00, and was maintained for some 20 years, when its library was presented to the public schools.

Chatfield Cemetery Association. This association originated May 22, 1855, Charles G. Hawley being chairman and Grove W. Willis secretary of the organization meeting. Charles G. Hawley and Nelson Allen were chosen trustees for the term of three years, William B. Gere and T. J. Safford for two years and Grove W. Willis and Riley L. Nickols for one year. These trustees met at Chatfield, May 23, 1856, and elected Nelson Allen president; William B. Gere, secretary, and T. J. Safford treasurer. May 24, 1856, the board decided to purchase land from George W. Rose, in the northeast corner of section eight, 104, eleven. The grounds were laid into lots, and when completed, offered for sale. The will of the late Levi Bemis gave the association $5,000 the fund to be permanent and the interest to be used for certain improvements and to build a sidewalk from the cemetery to the city limits. The present officers are: President, Hon. Milo White; secretary, F. W. Shimer; treasurer, G. H. Haven; trustees, Milo White, F. L. Tesca, William Laird, G. H. Haven, H. H. Heydon, F. W. Shimer. In addition to the original tract, five acres were purchased in 1884 and ten in 1909.

The People's Telephone Company. With headquarters at Chatfield, and exchanges at Spring Valley, Racine, Stewartville and St. Charles, was organized in 1898. The officers are: President, J. A. Melone; secretary, W. W. Boyer; treasurer, S. Maddock; directors, H. Brown, Hugh Currie, B. W. Huntley and A. L. Ober.

The Southern Minnesota Better Development League, whose object is told in its title, was organized April 2, 1912, at Man-

kato. The officers elected were: President, T. G. Bonnallie, Tracy; first vice-president, George R. Thompson, Chatfield; second vice-president, Alson Blodgett, Jr., Fairbault; secretary, Prof. C. E. Ball, North Mankato; treasurer, J. B. Ludlow, Rushmore. The counties eligible are: Rock, Pipestone, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Jackson, Cottonwood, Redwood, Martin, Watonwan, Brown, Faribault, Blue Earth, Nicollet, Waseca, Le Suer, Steele, Rice, Mower, Dodge, Goodhue, Fillmore, Olmsted, Wabasha, Houston, Winona, Sibley, Scott, Yellow Medicine. George R. Thompson, of Chatfield, is one of the leading movers in this organization.

The Minnesota Fire Insurance Co., of Chatfield, is now in its fourth year. Its risks in force amount to $3,482,651, and its premiums in force amount to $67,184.88. The officers are: A. L. Ober, president; C. L. Thurber, vice-president; W. W. Boyer, secretary; F. G. Stoudt, treasurer; directors, A. L. Ober, Charles L. Thurber, W. W. Boyer, F. G. Stoudt, F. L. Tesca, C. W. Doud, D. B. Franklin, S. Maddock, Jos. Underleak. General counsel, Royal A. Stone, St. Paul, Minn.; assistant counsel, Joseph Underleak, Chatfield, Minn.; Auditor, C. W. Doud, Chatfield, Minn. These officers have served from the first, with the exception that S. Maddock and Joseph Underleak were not members of the original board of directors.

The Security Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Chatfield, was organized April 22, 1898. Since its organization it has paid losses of $518,954.92. January 1, 1912, the insurance in force was $10,932,213 and the premiums in force, $192,318.49. The company has a surplus of $9,640.47. The officers are: F. L. Tesca, president; S. E. Bibbins, vice-president; A. L. Ober, treasurer; Charles L. Thurber, secretary; directors, Lars Christianson, Fargo, N. D.; J. W. Cowling, Jackson, Minn.; and G. R. Thompson, C. H. White, F. G. Stoudt, S. E. Bibbins, F. L. Tesca, A. L. Ober, C. L. Thurber, Chatfield.

The Chatfield Commercial Club. This club had its beginning February 24, 1910, when twelve business men gathered and a committee was appointed to solicit members for the new club. March 18, 1910, the committee reported and it was voted to organize. The final steps were taken March 25, 1910, when the organization was completed and the by-laws adopted. The following officers were elected: President, Dr. C. M. Cooper; vice-president, Charles L. Thurber; secretary, P. H. Laivell; treasurer, O. L. Ober. Of the work of the club the first year, the Chatfield "News Democrat" of March 1911, says: The club has spent $150 on roads leading into town, in addition to the $700 given by the townships and individuals; efforts were made to interest the citizens in keeping the town looking better and

PETER LIEBERG AND FAMILY

cleaner; hitching posts were placed along the side streets; unjust freight rates were adjusted; an additional coach was obtained on the Chatfield branch; two Trade Extension days were given; a Fourth of July celebration was held; a Farmers' Institute was arranged; a rest room was established; a public library was started; the matter of establishing an agricultural course in the public schools was taken up, and presented to the voters by competent authorities.

The present officers are: President, Charles L. Thurber; vice-president, E. W. Buzzell; secretary, George R. Thompson; treasurer, F. G. Stoudt. Among the results accomplished the past year may be mentioned: The club took action persuading the city council to take charge of the library and contributed $50.00 toward its support; it worked for the establishment of associated school districts in this vicinity, and succeeded in having a department of agricultural training and domestic science opened in the public schools; urged the need of new hose for the fire department and contributed toward purchasing it; it gave its endorsement toward establishing a gasoline storage tank which materially lowered the cost of gasoline; it assisted in securing better roads; it took an interest in the Memorial Day exercises and also gave a Fourth of July celebration; it placed on the principal streets signs regulating the speed of vehicles; it repaired the hitching posts; it continued the rest room; it arranged for band concerts; it took the initiative in securing the replacing of the walk between Chatfield and West Chatfield; it offered prizes at the short course of corn raising and dairying; it secured an improvement in passenger conditions on the railroad; it arranged for the State Anti-Tuberculosis exhibit; it secured a state appropriation for roads, and accomplished much else for the good of the city.

Following is a complete list of the members of the club, June 6, 1912: Charles H. Anderson, H. L. Atchison, S. E. Bibbins, Henry Blakeslee, John Blonigan, E. G. Bolles, Eugene Bolles, W. W. Boyer, Mike Burke, Sidney Burnap, E. W. Buzzell, Caw & Lynch, Frank Chemark, John Chemark, Dr. C. M. Cooper, M. H. Crane, C. M. Culver, J. L. Etnier, C. H. Fairbank, C. H. Follensbee, Frank Dalton, J. L. Delaney, C. W. Doud, R. I. Doud, C. H. Hanson, Ed F. Harnish, G. A. Haven, G. H. Haven, F. N. Henry, H. H. Heydon, C. V. Hoffman, Ed Howard, J. B. Kalmes, F. W. Kammer, A. Kuisle, P. H. Laivell, Luther Lombard, C. J. Manahan, Martin Manahan, Will Manahan, W. R. Means, W. A. Moore, Frank Mundell, Dan O'Keefe, S. L. Peterson, Rev. W. R. Reynolds, E. W. Rossman, M. W. Schermerhorn, Anthony Sharpe, R. D. Shearer, F. W. Shimer, Louis Siegel, Dr. F. L. Smith, George J. Smith, H. J.

Smith, J. E. Smith, F. G. Stoudt, E. F. Sutherland, F. L. Tesca, George R. Thompson, C. L. Thurber, John Tuohy, William Tuohy, Frank Underleak, G. H. Underleak, Joseph Underleak, J. P. Williams, Dr. C. W. Woodruff, U. J. Wright.

CHATFIELD TOWNSHIP.

Chatfield is the third town from the western boundary of the county on the northern line. Olmsted county joins it on the north, Pilot Mound on the east, Fountain on the south, and Jordan on the west. It contains thirty-six sections as originally run out by the government surveyors. The northeast part of the town is prairie, while the northwest was a solid body of heavy timber, and the south half of the town was oak openings, and is a rolling section of country.

The Root river, with its numerous tributaries, flows through the central part of the town. Sugar creek flows northeast to mingle its waters with the parent stream in section fourteen. Bear creek comes from the west through section eighteen. The north branch comes into town in the northwest corner, and finds the middle branch in section seventeen. Numerous other rivulets arise from springs and help swell the Root river. The Root river and Sugar creek have bluffs on either side rising from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet or more, with projecting rocks and a variety of trees. The soil is generally a clay loam with a yellow clay subsoil, with the exception of the valley of the Root river, which is of a black sandy character to a depth of about ten inches, and this is superimposed on a whitish sand several feet, reposing on a bed of white clay. The larger part of the town is admirably adapted to stock raising, and the balance for tillage purposes, and in an early day the yield of wheat was enormous.

Early Settlement. The immigration to Chatfield commenced in 1853, along the Sugar creek valley, and this went on increasing until all the land was taken, and of course, new comers could then only purchase of the pre-emptors. R. H. Findley built the first house on section twenty-seven in the Sugar creek valley in 1853, it was of logs, fourteen by sixteen feet. In 1853, Hugh Paisley pre-empted a claim in section ten, and he, it is claimed, was the first settler in town to commence improvements on a claim, who came there with the intention of securing a home. He put up a little log hut and spent the winter of 1853-54.

One of the first frame houses was put up in the spring of 1854, on section twenty-four, by J. S. Edwards, bringing the lumber from Winona, and his family came in the fall. In 1854, D. W. Breese came and was the first to settle on section thirty-three. On first coming here there was an Indian village or encampment near, which varied from twenty, at times, up to

perhaps a hundred, and of course Mr. Breese and his family were the subjects of never tiring curiosity to the untutored children of the forest. They would come up in squads to the house, and sit and examine everything, and beg for food by pointing into their mouths. They were always amused to see Mrs. Breese wash and dress the children, the ablutions of course were considered a religious rite. Thomas Holmes, James Lynch, James Gardiner, Thomas Goldsmith, and Ole Christianson also came and secured places in this year.

Fannie McClellan was the first child, as it is supposed, born in the town, outside of the village. She was a daughter of James and Mary McClellan, and arrived in the spring of 1854. The father, James McClellan, was one of the earliest to die, his demise occurring in the summer of 1854.

In 1855, William Bailey, H. Brown, Urbin Wright, Patrick Lynch, Patrick McGraw, George Follinsbee, Trulo Erickson, Ole Jacobson, and Nels Nelson came to procure homes here.

In 1856, there were several accessions, among them, Martin Brannan, Michael King, M. Murphy, Patrick Williams, Thomas Larvin, John Conley, D. D. Frink, and Joseph Caw.

In 1857, Michael Rice and George Goldsmith arrived.

In 1858, James Power, Patrick Doyle, and Alfred Crosby put in an appearance. And after these the following persons settled in various parts of the town: Patrick Brennan, Ole Olson, D. C. Cartlich, M. W. Rooney, H. Hanson, and others have been coming, one by one, to take the place of those who have moved on.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Chatfield township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located. August 8, Thomas B. Twiford, six; August 16, Grove W. Willis, five; September 1, Alpheus W. Fargo, five; September 1, Harley B. Morse, five; September 5, Daniel W. Breese, twenty-eight; September 5, William C. H. Gardinnier, twenty-seven; September 5, Luke McMaster, thirty-three; September 7, William Sauer, nine; September 8, Edwin B. Gere, six; September 9, Columbia French, four; September 9, Richard Freeman, five; September 9, Hugh Parsley, ten; September 9, Thomas Parsley, eleven; September 9, Henry C. Wheeler, six; September 9, Hirman K. Wilder, four; September 28, Simeon Crittenden, six; September 28, William Shimer, five-six; October 12, Joseph Gold, seven; November 1, George W. Ross, eight; November 1, William K. Tribew, eight-nine; November 13, James Kinnely, twenty-eight; November 13, William Lynch, eleven.

CHAPTER XXIII.

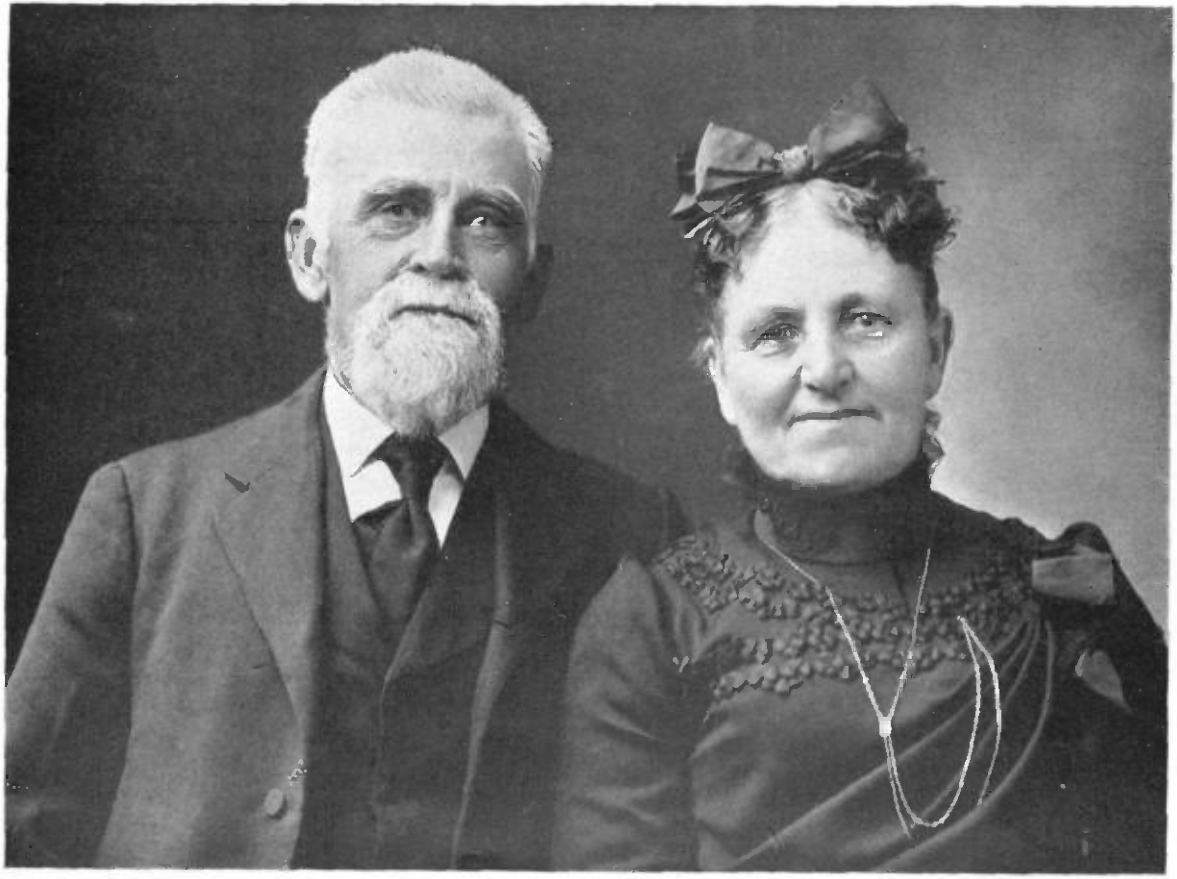
CANTON VILLAGE AND TOWNSHIP.

Canton Village—Advantages—Early History—Municipal History—Canton Township—Early Records—Organization—Railroad Bonds—Early Industrial Enterprises—Lenora—A Literary and Social Center—Elliota—Prosper—Edited by William Willford.

Canton village is a flourishing hamlet on the line of the Preston-Reno division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It contains three churches, Methodist, Presbyterian and Catholic, Masonic and Odd Fellows halls and a large brick school building; and all kinds of business are represented. The village enjoys a very good trade in a commercial way and is quite a grain and stock center. The citizens are progressive, and the Commercial Club is just now rebuilding and very much improving the hotel which is the property of the club. The Opera House is also being enlarged. The thrift of the farmers adjacent to the town is resulting in increased trade and Canton is growing and larger stocks are carried by her merchants. Canton is noted for her "Day Off," a recreation day given every year in August, when people gather for a general good time, from all over this section of the country.

Early History. Frank Adams, of Dubuque, the engineer of the railroad when building, perceiving the eligibility of the location for a village, bought thirty-two acres of land of Charles Willford in section twenty-one, the same amount from John Olson in section twenty, five acres from J. Sullivan in section twenty-eight, and five acres from G. B. Hudson in section twenty-nine. It is so situated that the water from one part of the village runs into Root river and on the other into the state of Iowa. It will thus be seen that the village occupies parts of four sections.

This was in the fall of 1879, and Mr. Adams immediately had the site surveyed and platted, and duly recorded with the name of Canton. The next spring 800 shade trees were set out, and about this time Charles Willford purchased a half interest in the property. In the spring of 1882, William Willford bought



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES WILLFORD

out Frank Adams, the other half interest remaining in the possession of Charles Willford. William Willford sold a half of his half interest to B. E. Edwards and R. E. Osborne. Many lots were sold. After a time Edwards & Osborne purchased Charles Willford's interest. None of the original owners now own property in the village except Charles Willford, who still has a residence here.

The building of the village was commenced in a small way when it was first laid out, by John Meyers, a man with an itinerating proclivity, who put up a board shanty for a boarding house. In a few days Abraham Wiltse put up a shanty which he also dignified by calling it a boarding house. The first store was erected by David Donald, who at once put in a fine stock of goods, and took Joseph Ernest in as a partner. The business was continued but a short time. During the first part of the winter, John Manuel, who had a store in Elliota, commenced moving his store and goods, and January, 1880, he had a good stock of general merchandise for sale. In a few weeks he moved up a larger building, twenty-two by sixty feet, and transferred his goods into this. James Young commenced his store about the same time that the moving was going on. The structure was the first substantial building erected in town, and was twenty-four by sixty feet, and in point of time it is the third store in the village. This store is still the leading store in the village and is rented from James Young by Webster & Hellickson. The boarding house above mentioned, after a time gave place to the "Commercial," a large building moved up from Elliota by L. D. Fay. The depot was first located about three quarters of a mile east of the present village, on the farm of Charles Willford. This was in fulfillment of the conditions under which the bonds were voted, to wit: "that the depot should be the nearest to the east line of section twenty-one" the west line of which is in the center of the present village. It remained there until the fall of 1881, when it was moved to the village. Coincident with the building of the railroad, the elevator built by the railroad company went up. From the first it was operated by A. & T. McMichael, of McGregor, Iowa. It was opened on December 1, 1879, and received about 21,000 bushels of grain the first month. It is twenty-four by twenty-eight feet with a warehouse of like size attached. The elevator has a capacity of 11,000 bushels. It is still in operation. About the same time another elevator was erected by McCormick & Co., of Lansing, Iowa. It has a capacity of 12,000 bushels. It is twenty-four by twenty-four feet, and a flat warehouse sixteen by twenty-four feet is attached. S. G. Sands, the first winter of the village, got a shop built and started a fire in his forge.

Day Brothers started a lumber yard in the fall of 1879 with Lyman Seelye in charge. Edwards & Osborne, of La Crosse also started a yard the same fall. Elias Johnson operated this yard until June, 1880, when he was succeeded by William Willford, who served for many years.

December 25 and 26, 1899, the main business district of Canton was swept by fire, entailing a loss of some $25,000.00.

Municipal History. March 22, 1887, the county commissioners granted a petition of the people of Canton village, looking toward incorporation. The election was to be held at the Desmond Hotel, April 29, 1887, and the inspectors of election were to be C. Abbott, H. P. Mitson and A. C. Blair. The election was duly held, and the village incorporated. The first president of the village was H. H. Haskins and the first recorder was C. Abbott. In 1888 S. Boyd was president and C. Abbott recorder. In 1889, S. Boyd was president and H. P. Mitson was recorder. In 1890, Ira Hubbard was president and J. Dunford recorder. In 1891 Ira Hubbard was president and J. W. Funk recorder. In 1892 James Manuel was president and J. W. Funk recorder.

The present village records date from 1895, the previous records having been destroyed by fire. The records show the officers since 1895 to have been as follows:

1895—President, J. Dunford; trustees, C. E. McKinney, Frank Hudson, Frank Wickett; treasurer, H. O. Helgeson; recorder, O. Larson; justices, S. Boyd and Thomas Rich.

1896—President, Ole Larson; trustees, C. E. McKinney, M. C. Willford and William Edmister; treasurer, M. T. Tollefson; recorder, J. W. Funk; constables, David McMasters and George Patterson.

1897—President, Ole Larson; trustees, C. E. McKinney, W. M. Edmister, M. C. Willford; trasurer, R. J. Sturgeon; recorder, J. W. Funk; justices, S. Boyd and H. P. Mitson; constables, F. M. Boynton.

1898—President, J. Dunford; trustees, A. L. Hudson, F. Wickett, H. Tollefson; recorder, R. J. Sturgeon; constable, George Patterson.

1899—President, L. D. Shipman; trustees, H. T. Tollefson, C. E. McKinney, W. A. Snyder; treasurer, O. Larson; recorder, George J. Kohle; justices, E. J. Eames, E. McMasters; constable, F. M. Boynton.

1900—President, J. Dunford; trusteees, F. Corless, V. J. Beach, H. P. Mitson; treasurer, James Manuel; recorder, J. Larson; justices, H. Iverson, A. Kimball; constable, George Patterson.

1901—President, J. Dunford; trustees, J. Larson, J. Dalley, H. P. Mitson; recorder, R. W. Bostworth.

1902—President, James Daley; trustees, C. E. McKinney, H. P. Mitson, James Manuel; treasurer, James Dunford; recorder, A. J. Fife; justices, H. Iverson and A. Kimball.

1903—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, James Manuel, Frank Wickett, A. J. Fife; treasurer, J. Dunford; recorder, F. M. Boynton; constables, A. A. Truman, George Spyier.

1904—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, James Manuel, C. H. Pierce, H. Marotz; treasurer, D. B. Norton; recorder, F. M. Boynton; justices, H. Iverson and A. Kimball; constable, W. H. Kimball.

1905—President, John Emster; trustees, B. M. Wicks, P. W. Young, James Manuel; recorder, F. M. Boynton; treasurer, D. B. Norton.

1906—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, R. J. Sturgeon, James Manuel, Clarence Carrier; treasurer, D. B. Norton; recorder, H. H. Wheeler; justices, A. Kimball, A. Wheeler; constable, W. H. Kimball.

1907—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, C. A. Webster, C. H. Pierce, A. L. Hudson; treasurer, F. A. Masters; recorder, D. B. Norton; justice, John S. Norton; constable, P. S. Boyd.

1908—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, E. T. Soland, Thomas Rice, C. H. Pierce; treasurer, F. A. Masters; recorder, D. B. Norton; justices Albert Kimball, J. S. Norton; constables, W. H. Kimball, L. E. Smith.

1909—President, H. P. Mitson; trustees, C. H. Pierce, Thomas Rice, E. T. Soland; treasurer, F. A. Masters; recorder, J. Dunford; justice, A. L. Hudson; constable, M. Armstrong.

1910—President, J. Dunford; trustees, C. H. Pierce, H. H. Vail, E. Stead; treasurer, F. A. Masters; recorder, H. Boyd; justices, A. Kimball, A. L. Hudson; constables, W. H. Kimball, D. McMasters.

1911—President, H. H. Vail; trustees, C. H. Pierce, E. Stead, S. Domrud; treasurer, F. A. McMasters; recorder, J. Dunford; constable, Alonzo Woodle.

1912—President, H. H. Vail; trustees, E. B. Webster, W. H. Sturgeon, C. H. Pierce; treasurer, F. A. Masters; recorder, W. H. Reed; justices, J. S. Hatlestad, Max Krause; constables, W. H. Kimball and George Patterson.

CANTON TOWNSHIP.

Canton township, the second on the southern tier from Houston county, with Newburg on the east, Iowa on the south, Harmony on the west, and Amherst on the north. It has the reg-

ular thirty-six sections of a government township. The township is particularly adapted to tillage purposes and stock raising, as it is well watered with springs, yielding water of great purity, and in abundance. The soil is varied and of superior quality. In the northeast part Richland Prairie comes down into the town to the vicinity of Lenora, while in the extreme southern part, a narrow strip of Looking Glass Prairie is found. North of this the first settler found burr oak openings, with a scattering but fair growth. Along the central part of the eastern town line it is more broken, with occasional stony points, and with some timber. The northern and southern parts of the town have a dark loam, while the remainder is of a clayish nature and very productive. The "sink holes" in this town are quite numerous.

A stranger coming into the town would not fail to notice the fine buildings and well kept farms which give such an air of thrift and prosperity to the inhabitants, who maintain the front rank in modes of farming.

Early Settlement. The first settler in Canton was Albert Nichols who staked out a claim March 7, 1851. This was the first claim taken in the county. The complete story of this early settlement is told in the chapter on the first settlement of the county.

In 1852, Archibald Donald took quite a tract of land in the eastern part of section thirty-six. He came from Scotland and remained awhile in Milwaukee, but in 1852, came to this town and remained until death, which was by drowning, at Preston, in 1865.

In 1853, there were quite a number of accessions to the town, among them Nelson Darling arrived in the spring and went on to section twelve, but after a year or two removed. He died became a prominent man. His farm finally became the county in Brownsville. B. F. Tillotson came with the Onstine party and took land in Amherst, but his house was south of the town line, and in Canton. Tillotson married Hannah Onstine, and poor farm. Elijah Austin came here from Monroe county, Wisconsin, in 1853. His land was in sections eleven and fifteen. He was county commissioner and was the first postmaster in town (Richland postoffice), and in all respects a prominent man. In about 1856 he removed to the vicinity of Faribault, and afterwards farther west. T. J. Eames took land in section ten, in 1853, and finally went to Texas.

In the southwestern part of the town another settlement was commenced in 1853, coming from Moline, Ill., headed by Captain Julius Elliott, the founder of Elliota village. The year before he had come up the Mississippi to Wild Cat Bluff, and thence west

as far as this region, which pleased him so much that he returned, and was instrumental in bringing quite a colony, among them Matthew Williams and Mr. Syford, who came with a team, bringing lumber from Iowa. Elliott took the southwest quarter of section thirty-two. Williams quarreled with the others and went to Houston county. Syford remained on section thirty-three for about seven years, when he went to Kansas. Captain Elliott brought his family here in May. Robert Armstrong took the southwest quarter of section thirty-three, where he lived for many years.

Several claims were made this summer, and there was rather serious trouble in adjusting the ownership question that arose.

Elder William Bly planted himself in the southeast quarter of section thirty-two. He was a preacher, but not a member of this colony. He soon sold to Charles B. Kimball, and went to section six, Newburg, going from there to Bloomfield township, where he died. E. P. Eddy also arrived in 1853, and secured a foothold in section one. He was one of the famous Onstine party. Godfrey Wolford was a character who put in an appearance in the summer of 1853, from Ohio, with his wife and children, and stuck his stakes in section twenty-three, in the southeast quarter. Here he lived and worked and fished and hunted, and told his stories for eight or ten years, and then went to Martin county, where he died in 1881.

John Willford came from Wisconsin in 1853 and settled on section fourteen. He stayed until the sixties, when he moved to Cottonwood county, this state, later going to Pueblo, Colo., where he died. James Kelley and stepsons, the Livingood boys, also came in 1853. Kelley's habitation was just south of where Lenora now is, and in addition to the 160 acres around his cabin, he claimed thousands of acres and proceeded to stand guard over it with a shot gun, threatening to shoot any man who should presume to drive a stake anywhere in his vast domain. He was a regular "bulldozer," although this was long before the coining of that graphic word. His pretensions were based upon the right of conquest or discovery, as he declared that he had hunted all over this region before the advent of other white men. In humble imitation of the civilized nations of the globe, he succeeded in making his claims so far respected that he realized quite handsomely from his methods. He sold 400 acres to Elijah Austin, besides many others to the new comers. He was a married man, coming from Wisconsin, and had raised a family, and after some years he left. The Kingsburys also took claims in 1853. Four brothers—John, Charles, Martin and Seymour V.—came to the county in 1852 and settled in the vicinity of Waukokee, in Carimona township. Martin remained in Wau-

kokee, but some years later went to Kansas. Charles later in life went to Oregon. Seymour V. and John, in 1853, took claims in section thirteen, Canton. Seymour V. went to South Dakota, and then to Mason City, Iowa, where he died. John moved to Preston and died.

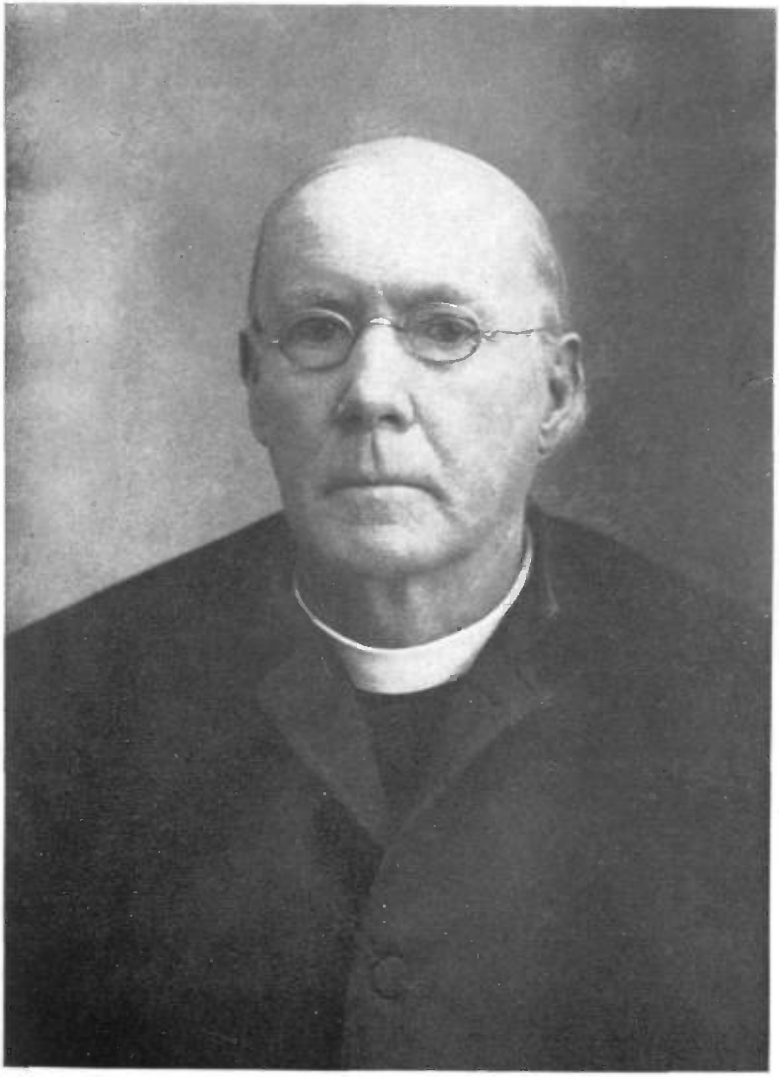
W. McHenry also settled in Canton in 1853, but relinquished his claim to B. F. Tillotson and moved to section sixteen, Preble township. In 1854 came Charles B. Willford and settled in section fourteen. With him were his sons, William, Charles, Wesley and Sanford S. There was also one daughter, Sidnia Jane. The mother also came. With this party came James M. Graham. Graham brought his wife and family. The party left Hancock county, Ohio, September 11, 1854, and reached Canton October 7, of the same year.

Among others who came in 1854 were Sylvanus Allen, W. J. Howell, Silas Pennock, John Jacobson, L. L. Streator, James C. Rice.

William Marley and Mathias Heard in 1855 came from Moline with six yoke of oxen, some cows and other stock. They had been river men on the lower Mississippi. Heard secured a place in section thirty-one, but afterwards sold and went to Harmony, and finally to Kansas. Marley located in section thirty-one, and afterwards in section twenty-nine. Among others who came in 1855 were Dr. J. M. Wheat, George McMaster, Elder John L. Dyer, Lyman Seelye, William Smith, O. F. Holmes.

In 1856 came D. L. Bryant, Horace and William Wheeler, Patrick McKenney, Joseph Woodle and many others, this being the year of the principal influx, when the larger part of the land in the township was taken up.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Canton township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: June 16, Henry Kelley, Jr., 28; August 8, John Graham, 25; August 8, George R. Miller, 1; August 8, Albert Nichols, 25; August 8, Benjamin F. Tillotson, 4; August 10, Elijah Austin, 11; August 11, Julius W. Elliot, 32; August 11, John Kingsbury, 13; August 16, Enoch H. Miller, 25; August 18, Aaron Ludden, 12; August 25, Giles L. Reynolds, 14-15; August 25, Nelson Darling, 11; August 28, John Willford, 23; August 29, Theodore J. Eames, 9; August 29, Earl F. Emmons, 4; August 29, Austen Eastman, 11; August 29, John Jacobson, 3; August 29, Hans Johnson, 10; August 29, Peter Oleson (Peterson), 3; August 31, Christopher Hellikson, 24; September 2, Robert Armstrong, 33; September 2, Andrew Cheney, 31; September 2, Amos A. Mooney, 31; Sep-



REV. DANIEL JONES

tember 5, Joshua McAllister, 34; September 5, Samuel Winch, 34; September 6, Greenleaf Ackerman, 25; September 6, Jonathan Meyers, 14; September 6, Godfrey Willford, 23-24; September 7, Edwin Thayer, 22; September 7, Sylvannus Allen, 35; September 7, Ruel Thayer, 35; September 7, Madison Vincent, 35; September 9, Henry Baker, 1-2; September 9, Abner U. Harden, 1; September 14, Charles B. Kimball, 32; September 15, James L. Willford, 23; September 20, Silas Pennock, 15; October 3, William Armstrong, 33; October 10, George L. Chapin, 31; October 10, John S. Marsh, 30; October 13, Thomas Armstrong, 28; October 19, Charles B. Kingsbury, 13; October 20, Andrew Rankin, 33; October 21, Charles B. Willford, 14; October 30, Asel Winch, 34; November 3, John Kiser, 32; November 29, Hiram J. Willsey, 12; December 13, Elijah Winslow, 5; December 14, George Mann, 35; December 16, William Leach, 15; December 23, James M. Graham, 12; December 23, Amos Newell, 15.

Early Events. David Donald, son of Archibald and Elizabeth Donald, was born on January 7, 1853. The first girl born here must have been Eliza A. Armstrong, daughter of Robert and Eliza Armstrong, who was born July 25, 1853. Aaron Ludden and Miss Nelson were married August 24, 1853, by Rev. William Bly (a Baptist minister). Miss Nelson was a sister of Mrs. William Loomis, of Mabel, Minn. From the most reliable information obtainable, John M. Kingsbury and Cordelia West were united in the bonds of wedlock by Elder William Bly, July, 1854. A step-child of Nelson Darling was taken away in the summer of 1853, and was buried on section twelve.

Political. At the meeting to organize the town, on May 11, 1858, there was a spirited contest over the name, and quite a number were suggested, but the struggle was finally narrowed down to two names, "Elyria," suggested by E. P. Eddy, and that of "Canton," proposed by Fred Flohr. The vote declared in favor of Canton, but the Elyria party gave up reluctantly, and the first town book ordered had this name on it. At this election E. P. Eddy and William S. Marsh were sworn in as judges, and William Willford and S. V. Kingsbury as clerks. The meeting was at the log schoolhouse in Lenora, the first edifice built in the county for school purposes. According to the record, the following persons were elected: Supervisors, Joseph Woodle (chairman), O. Holmes and William Marley; justices of the peace, Silas Pennock and John Cleghorn; constables, G. R. Miller and William Wilkinson; clerk, E. F. Dyer; assessor, S. V. Kingsbury; collector, C. B. Kimball; overseer of the poor, Reese Rush. The town was divided into nine road districts, and a tax of two days' work levied for each person not

exempt by law. On the records up to 1860, the name Elyria is carried along in the town books, when it is dropped out of sight.

Railroad Bonds. In 1879, a proposition was made to bond the town, to assist in the construction of the Narrow Gauge railroad. At the first election the proposition was rejected by a good round majority, but a second town meeting was held. The officers of the road were deeply interested, particularly the citizens living in Preston, and the citizens of the county seat generally were anxious as to the result, and were well represented at the polls. Carriages were procured to convey the voters to the polls, and the point was carried. The second election came in harvest time, and those who were opposed to the bonds claimed that an unfair advantage was taken. In the fall of 1879, the town issued bonds to the amount of $12,000, to assist in building the Narrow Gauge railroad.

Early Industrial Enterprises. A tannery was started in 1859, by William Bursell, on section twenty-five. A building eighteen by twenty-two feet was first put up and quite a business was done for two years. His bark mill was placed on a large stump for a foundation and was also utilized for grinding corn. The attempt was not entirely satisfactory, and was abandoned. In 1859 or 1860, a saw-mill was constructed about twenty rods below the spring on the farm of Albert Nichols. It had an over-shot water wheel twenty feet in diameter. The building was eighteen by forty feet, with a perpendicular saw that would cut three or four hundred feet of lumber a day. This was kept in motion for about four years. About the time that Nichols' mill stopped making sawdust, Marshall Winch put up a mill about a mile and a half southwest of Lenora, which was not unlike the other, except that it had a better power. A brother, Asel, finally bought the affair and a few years after a freshet washed it out. In 1880, a mill was erected thirty by eighty-four feet, on the farm of P. Brode, near the railroad. It had a four horse-power press run by an engine of fifteen horse-power, and had a twenty-foot Cook evaporator. It turned out several hundred gallons of syrup in a day, which was purified by the best processes. The establishment was built and owned by six enterprising settlers: Daniel O. Brien, G. W. Sprague, S. P. Sprague, G. M. Traxler, Frank Allison and P. Brode. The enterprise was finally abandoned.

Lenora is a hamlet in section two, Canton township. At the present time it consists of one store, a hotel, a Methodist church, a school, a blacksmith shop, a village hall, and a number of residences.

Early Settlement. The projector of this townsite was Elder

John L. Dyer, an enthusiastic Methodist minister, who, in 1855, took the west half of the southeast and the east half of the southwest quarter of section two. In the year 1856, he set off the southwest forty for a town site, proposed to sell lots and appropriate the avails to the building of a large Methodist church. It was to be of stone and in the basement there was to be a school or academy, which should be denominational in its teachings. Mr. Dyer devoted his energies to this object and many lots were sold, some of them realizing $60 each. In the winter of 1856 and 1857, stone was hauled for the building and work was commenced. The walls were nearly up when the panic of 1857 struck the enterprise. When the building of the stone church was commenced, the building committee consisted of Charles B. Willford, LeRoy Streator and James M. Graham. The three signed notes to pay the contractor, McDonald, for his work, and the burden of the payment fell on Willford and Graham, a heavy calamity in those days of little money. Later a smaller church was built inside the walls of the half-completed edifice.

In 1856 the first store was put up by John L. Dyer, and managed by his son Joshua. John Miller soon put up a blacksmith shop, and in 1859 Charles Churchill erected a hotel.

In 1857 Lenora became a great business center, as it was centrally located in the then sparsely settled country of that locality in territorial times. Elections, political meetings, church services, singing schools, and spelling schools were held here in the first edifice built in Fillmore county for school purposes. All public gatherings invariably had a good attendance in this early period of settlement on Richland prairie, as it was then called.

During the year 1857 a literary society was organized at this place, called the Archean Society, the object of which was for the improvement of those participating in composing and expressing their thoughts on paper. A paper was made up composed of the articles written by the members of the society, and others, and named the "Monthly Union," and read on a set time once a month, in the first log schoolhouse built in the county, by some member of the society who had been chosen at some former meeting as editor. The names of some of the members of the Archean Society were: Elias F. Dyer, W. W. Braden, William Willford, Seymour V. Kingsbury, Henry Titus, William C. Jackson, Mrs. Sherburne Stevens, Maria Streator and Mary Symms. At this date (1911) all are deceased except William Willford, the writer of this sketch, and Maria Streator, now Mrs. Kingsbury. William Willford was the first editor of the "Monthly Union." The society kept up its organization for a number of years, which was up to the time of the "Indian Scare" in 1862, when nearly every settler "vamoosed his ranch" to get away

from the Indians who were at that time distant at least 125 miles. When the "Union" was read there was always a crowded house to listen to the articles that were written by the home talent of Richland Prairie.

Writing articles for the "Monthly Union" proved to be a good mental and beneficial exercise for the members; the entertainments given by the Archean Society were well received by the people, and the articles read from the pages of the "Union" were instructive and amusing to the listeners. The early pioneer days of Lenora will long be remembered from the time of the "Monthly Union" of 1857 and later.

Lenora Postoffice. Charles B. Willford was appointed postmaster in the winter of 1856, and Joshua Dyer was his deputy, who kept the office at his store. Afterward Mrs. Bennet acted as deputy, with the office at her house in the village. Then John Hobart had the office at his store, and was followed by William Smith, and on his death his wife received his commission. George Johnson held it in his store until it was burned in 1878, when A. C. Seelye had it at his hotel for a few months, when N. J. Willsie was appointed. He was followed by W. J. Stevens, who was serving when the office was discontined by reason of the establishment of the rural route from Canton.

Lenora Cemetery. The land for a burial place was purchased of William Smith and O. F. Holmes at a very early day. Austin Eastman's remains were the first to be deposited there, in the fall of 1856. The records in regard to the early cemetery organization are lost, but another organization was effected September 7, 1867. A driveway was purchased from George W. Parker after the incorporation. William Willford, Charles Willford, E. D. Washburn and William P. Stevens stood responsible for the price of the driveway until enough lots were sold to raise the amount. The cemetery is well located and well kept.

Elliota Village. In the summer of 1853, when this region was first settled, Captain Elliott, whose claim proved to be on the southwest of section thirty-two, planned to have a village here, and gave away lots to all who would improve them, and as soon as the land was in the market it was platted and recorded. A store was started, and a hotel, by the enterprising proprietor, and in 1854 he sold his stock of goods to Harvey Marsh, who managed the business up to February, 1855, when the hotel and store were both burned, but Mr. Marsh at once rebuilt. John Boone next put up a large stone store. John Cleghorn also soon put in a good stock of goods, and it is said dug the first well.

This was at one time a stage line center, Walker's Dubuque and St. Paul line being among the number. The old territorial road was east of Elliott's claim, and there was great rivalry

between this place and Syford's, who also kept a hotel, as to the travel. It was finally brought through the new village, and prosperity seemed to be a secured promise, but today it is deserted, the business center now being at Canton.

Postoffice. A postmaster was commissioned here in 1854, Captain Elliott holding the document. He was succeeded by Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Wilcox, Mr. Manuel, and finally by Dr. Sturgeon, who surrendered the pouch key in April, 1882, and closed the office.

Prosper is a small but growing village in sections thirty-five and thirty-six. It has a church, one bank, one creamery, one lumber yard, one blacksmith shop, one hardware store, a hotel, two general stores, and a grain warehouse. It is noted as a great market for live stock, its shipments being very large.

Early History. Soon after the close of the war of the rebellion, E. B. Clark secured a postoffice and was appointed postmaster, keeping the office at his house in section thirty-five. In about one year it went over the state line, with Enoch Rollins as postmaster. In 1880, F. R. Miles succeeded to the position. A depot was erected, and gradually a village grew up around the store and depot.

CHAPTER XXIV.

AMHERST AND HOLT.

Amherst—Location and Area—Settlement—Onstine Party—Celebrations—Richland Center—Stringtown—Henrytown—Edited by M. H. Onstine—Holt—Settlement—Organization—Early Events—Highland Village—Whalan Village—Early History—Officers—Present Advantages.

Amherst township is constituted as originally outlined by the United States surveyors, and has Preble between it and Houston county on the east, and Canton between it and Iowa on the south. It is bounded by Preston on the west and Holt on the north. The South fork of Root river traverses the southern part of the town, coming from the west and entering the township through the northwest quarter of section thirty-one, and wending its course eastward through sections twenty-nine, twenty-eight, twenty-seven and twenty-six, finally making an abrupt northward curve in the corner of section twenty-five, where it leaves Amherst township through the southeast quarter of section twenty-four. This township contains an area of 23,040 acres. The surface in the northern part is generally rolling prairie, interspersed with timber sufficient to make the land valuable. While the northern part of the town cannot be called rugged in the full sense of the word, yet it is the most broken portion of the township, the undulations and rolling portions of the prairie being more abrupt and marked than in any other part of the town. Toward the southern boundary the rolling prairie continues, gradually lowering to the level of the river. Here, in places, the prairie is covered with a growth of brush and timber, which, when removed, leaves the land in a fair condition for cultivation. The eastern tier of sections is partially covered with heavy timber, and may be considered as among the best timber lands in the county. The soil is mostly a dark loam, mixed with clay, although in some portions of the town it has a marked tendency to sandiness. The bottoms, along the river and creeks, are covered with good varieties of indigenous grasses, supplying hay and grazing for stock.

Early Settlement. There is always manifest an absorbing interest as to who was the very first pioneer to cast his lot in a

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wild and unknown region in search of a suitable spot to establish a home, and, although parties are living who were connected and associated with the pioneer, there is much more uncertainty in regard to who it really was than is supposed by those who have never undertaken to gather it.

Annanias Lashmidt and his brother, John, were the first two men to commence an effort for civilization in the town of Amherst. They arrived here in the summer of 1852, and took a claim in section thirty-six, where they broke about sixteen acres, and in the fall they went back to Illinois, but returned the following spring to further their improvements. In August, 1853, they sold this claim to E. P. Eddy. The two Lashmidts lived in this and adjoining towns until 1866, when they removed to Missouri.

In the spring of 1853, Jacob Vought arrived and selected a claim in section thirty-two. Early in the spring of 1853, another hardy pioneer and adventurer wended his way to Amherst, a Mr. Woodruff. He took a claim in section thirty-two, where Henry Onstine afterward lived. After living on the claim a short time his wife became alarmed on account of the Indians, who had been encamped throughout the township, and he sold his claim for a trifling sum to James Kelley, Jr., who afterward turned it over to Mr. Onstine, and he with his family and effects fled the country. John Livingood came from Iowa in 1853, and located a claim in section thirty-five. He remained but a short time and sold to Michael Onstine, removing to Winneshiek county, Iowa. He was suspected of the murder of a Mr. Tellyer, whose body had been found in Pine Creek, and was arrested in Winneshiek county and brought back. Upon trial, he was convicted and sentenced to ninety-nine years and one day's imprisonment at hard labor. After serving eight years of his sentence he was pardoned on account of good behavior, and then disappeared. A Mr. Laird was an early settler, arriving in Amherst in the winter of 1853 and 1854; he, however, remained on his claim in section twenty-seven but a short time, selling out and removing to Missouri. With Laird came Frank Richardson, from New York State, who located upon section thirty-six.

B. F. Tillottson took a claim where the county poor farm is now situated. E. P. Eddy, not being satisfied with the claim which had been selected for him, and not being able to get water within a reasonable depth, selected another claim in section thirty-six, upon the northeast quarter. Mr. Eddy named the town Amherst, shortly after his arrival, in honor of the place in which his wife was born. William McHenry squatted on land now occupied by the poor farm. Henry Onstine

bought it. James Kelley, Jr., also had some land which Mr. Onstine bought.

1854. Joseph W. Smith located in section twenty-seven in 1854. He sold out and moved to Missouri many years ago.

1855. Phineas Underwood, a typical Yankee, was another of the pioneers, coming from Vermont and locating in section thirty in 1855. He sold out several years later and moved to Missouri. Robert Wilson was also one of the comers of 1855. He came from Preston and located near "Stringtown." He and his team of horses were killed by lightning in 1871. Rev. George Kingston came in about 1855, locating in section nineteen. He was a local Methodist preacher. His son, William Kingston, enlisted and went to the war, but came home with the typhoid fever. His family were ill with the fever shortly after, and the father and one child died. George Ruggles was an early settler and a prominent man in Fillmore county. He also settled near "Stringtown," but removed to Kansas in 1871. George and Nels Phillips were early settlers at "Stringtown." They were carried away to Kansas in the stampede to that state in 1870 and 1871. The same may be said of the Lashmidt brothers, who were among the first settlers.

1856. William Barton came in 1856, from Vermont, and located in section thirty-five. He remained on the claim until 1875, when he sold out and moved to Mason City, Iowa. He was a prominent man in Fillmore county politics, holding various offices at different times. He was sent to the legislature in 1869, and was also a county commissioner.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Amherst township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: January 18, Michael Onstine, 26; August 8, Benjamin F. Tillottson, 33; August 18, Francis Richardson, 34; August 29, Peter Oleson, 34; August 29, Henry Onstine, 32; August 29, Lars Pederson, 34; September 1, Annanias Lashmet, 25-26; September 1, Levi M. Smith, 22; September 1, Jemima Streator, 25; September 6, Robert Gilbert, 25; September 6, Thomas Gilbert, 35; September 6, James Lynn, 26-27; September 7, Knud Knudson, 27; September 8, Heluk Christopher, 11; September 8, Lars Trulson, 1; September 8, Lars Christensen, 11; September 8, Andrew Haldersen, 2; September 8, Thomas Knudson, 11; December 23, William J. Adams, 33; December 27, Henry Hutchison, 25; December 27, Levi Manning, 24.

The Onstine Party. Henry Onstine set out from Ohio, in April, 1853, in company with his son, Michael H., and his son-in-

law, B. F. Tillottson. Henry and his companions pushed their way west into Wisconsin, where he was joined by his brother, Michael, and family, and next into Iowa, where they were joined by another son-in-law, E. P. Eddy, who had previously settled in the West. This made quite a settlement of the pioneers and the entire party pushed on to Buchanan county, Iowa, where they stopped a while. Representatives of the colony traveled through Iowa and adjoining states in quest of a suitable location, but they returned dissatisfied. After wandering around for some time and locating at St. Charles, Iowa, and Bradford, they selected claims on the Little Wapsipinicon river and commenced the erection of log cabins and put up several tons of hay. Here they were accidentally found by a nephew of Henry Onstine, J. B. Onstine, a young man who had located and was practicing law in Decorah. He discouraged them in various ways and persuaded them to come to Minnesota. They at once sent a delegation to Amherst who selected claims and then returned for the families, who arrived in August. Henry Onstine bought the right of some claims held by J. Kelley and William McHenry, in the southern part of Amherst township, retaining one for himself and others for Eddy and Tillottson. He located in section thirty-two, where he found all his requirements, as to timber, water and prairie, satisfied.

In the fall of 1853 eight of the Onstine party rode over the prairie on horseback in a northeast direction from what is now Henrytown, in search for timber enough to maintain a farm. Where Bratsberg church now stands was a thicket of hazel and small poplar, and this party were probably the first white men to enter the ridge land grove of timber on what was later the G. J. Onstine farm, now owned by T. T. Johnson. In going over they passed near Knut Knutson's, now Stringtown, and returned by way of John Everitt's and Holver Peterson's, who settled in the spring on what proved to be section sixteen. These were all the settlers on their route.

Political. The township was organized May 11, 1858. The Messrs. Onstine, Henry and Michael H. and Caleb C., well known men, were the principal spirits in organizing and getting the government wheels of the township running. The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, at the cabin of Caleb C. Onstine, and the first election resulted as follows: Supervisors, C. C. Onstine (chairman), J. W. Smith and H. Gunvalson; clerk, M. H. Onstine; assessor, D. C. Phillips; collector, Andrew Thompson; overseer of the poor, Knud Knudson; justices of the peace, John Everett and William Kimber; constables, J. Durkin and G. R. Marshall. The board met May 15, 1858, and made the organization of the town of Amherst a substantial fact.

Military Company. In 1862 a militia company was formed and organized in Amherst, composed of about 150 men. The following were the officers of the company: Captain, Simon Knudson (Soiney); lieutenants, John Peterson, Hans Gunvalson and Knud L. Olson.

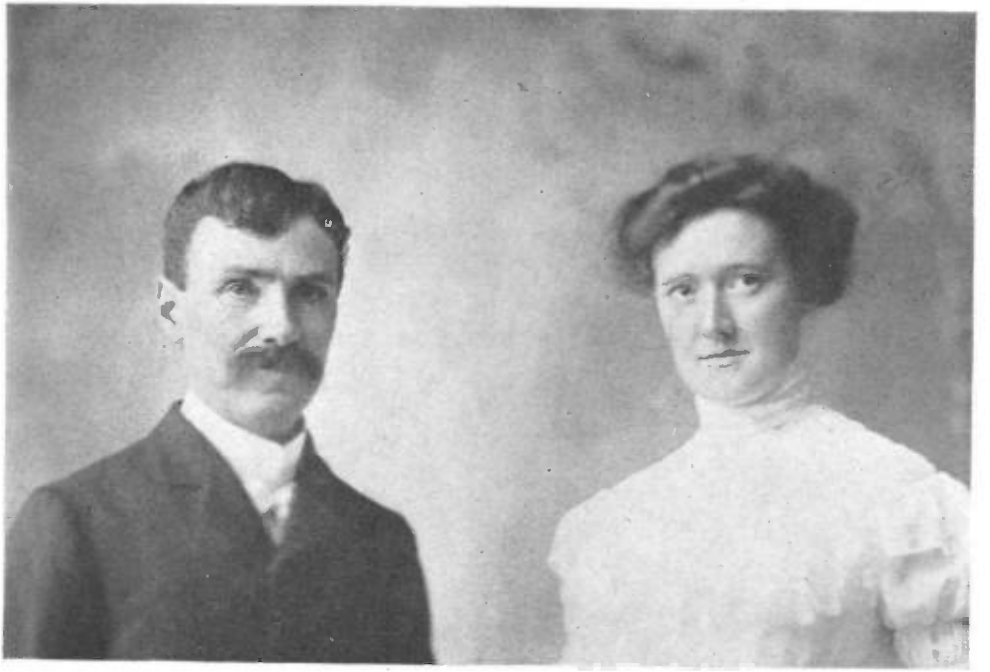
Celebration. An early celebration of the anniversary of American Independence took place July 4, 1854, in the southeast corner of the town of Amherst, in a grove owned by E. P. Eddy, and this gentleman furnished lumber for seats and the like. The opening of festivities commenced about 10 o'clock in the morning, by firing eight guns—shot-guns and rifles—heavily charged. After the speeches and cheers ended, a basket picnic was next in order. Conversations and chats continued during the balance of the day, and not until the sun was hidden below the western horizon did the meeting adjourn. The ground was decorated with a liberty pole, from which the stars and stripes were waving in the breeze, and those who attended say that nothing in the line of celebrations they ever attended could equal this.

This same day, at Henry, was held a celebration of similar character. M. H. Onstine had made a flag which was unfurled and was without doubt the first in the county of this character. Mr. Onstine still has the same flag, which he proudly raises each Independence day.

Richland Center. A prospective village was laid out in 1854, by William Barton, with the same motive in view that stimulated Henrytown's projectors. It was platted upon Mr. Barton's land on section thirty-five. A blacksmith shop was opened by Jesse Miller, and continued in operation for about one year, but the glory of the prospective city died out with the fire of his forge.

Stringtown is situated in the southern part of the town upon the northwest quarter of section twenty-seven. It is upon the crossing of country roads, and is on the south branch of Root river. It was a trading and postoffice point for many years.

The postoffice was named Amherst. It was established in 1864, with William Winch as the first postmaster, and was kept in Mr. Winch's store. E. L. Babcock kept the office in the store which is known as the "Stringtown Store." This was started in 1860 by William Winch, who ran it for a number of years, and sold to Ole Oleson. This enterprising Norwegian managed the establishment for a short time and then went out of the mercantile business, using the building for various other purposes. The store was again started a few years later by Mr. Ward, who ran it for a short time. He subsequently removed to Whalan, where he died. The firm of Langley & Halvorson succeeded Mr. Ward, and they in turn sold to J. D. Elliot, who, after running



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it for a short time, sold to Mr. Babcock.

The name of the hamlet is so singular that a few words as to how it came by it will not be out of place here. The name it bears, "Stringtown," serves the very purpose to be sought in naming a town, that is, it prevents its being confounded with others because of its oddity, and by it the locality is appropriately characterized. The name came from the fact that all the settlers built their houses along the road in the ravine in which the would-be village is located, thus stringing it out for some distance. For this reason the settlers commenced calling it a "Strung out town." This was shortened by common consent to "Stringtown."

Henry. In 1854 an effort was made to have the two southeastern counties in the state divided into three counties. It was at this time that Henrytown was projected, and it was platted with the intent that in such an emergency it might, on account of its central locality, become the county seat of the new county. It was laid out on the farm of M. H. Onstine, on sections thirty-two and thirty-three, at the crossing of the county roads. The boom lasted but a short time, however, as the prospects of the little settlement were blighted by the non-division of the counties. The town was named in honor of M. H. Onstine's father, Henry Onstine, who is mentioned elsewhere in the history of Amherst.

The postoffice in this village was established in the year of 1858, with C. C. Onstine as postmaster, and it was through his efforts it was secured, it being moved from Lenora to this point. The office was first at the residence of Mr. Onstine, and remained there for about one year. In the spring of 1859, M. H. Onstine was appointed postmaster, and he held it for about five years, when E. W. Bullis succeeded him, and it was soon after discontinued. Still later the Henrytown postoffice was reëstablished and M. H. Onstine reinstated, but a few years later it was discontinued by reason of the rural free delivery.

HOLT TOWNSHIP.

Holt is the second township from the northern and eastern boundaries of Fillmore county, having as intervening towns, Arendahl on the north and Norway on the east, while Amherst is on the south and Carrolton on the west. The principal stream is the Root river, which enters the town in section eight, having previously touched section eighteen, meanders into the edge of section five, and returning, goes down to section sixteen, then north through section nine and across the southeast corner of section four into section three, where it works toward the east to swing around and flow northwest and leave the town in sec-

tion two. There is a branch of this river, of considerable pretensions during a rainy time; it comes from the middle of the eastern part of the town, and running northwest, finally reaches the main river in the northern part of the township. Another creek from the southern part flows north and empties into the river in section nine.

Early Settlement. The first colonization in this township was in the spring of 1854, just before the opening of the land office in Brownsville, where entries of land had to be made. As near as can be learned, at the above mentioned time M. Onstine, who was then too young to make a claim himself, with his father, Michael, came and drove their stakes in section twenty-five. They had located originally in Amherst, the year before, coming from Ohio and remaining a certain time in Wisconsin, being natives, however, of Pennsylvania, The old gentleman passed on to the great majority on January 27, 1859.

Niles Carpenter and John Russell made claims in section twenty-five about 1854. Mr. Carpenter remained about four years, when he was elected county auditor, and removed to Preston and afterwards to Rushford, where he now resides. G. J. Onstine lived on the old place for sixteen years, when he removed to Rushford.

An early comer, in July, 1855, was John Johnson Rodebacken, who secured a location on sections fourteen and twenty-three. He was born in Norway April 14, 1827, and came to DuPage county, Illinois, in 1849, and two years later to La Salle county, where he bought 100 acres of land, which he disposed of in 1854, and the next year, with ox teams, started for Minnesota with his brother-in-law, John Ellefson, and arriving in Holt, located a claim as above mentioned. For two years they remained together, and then divided their interests. John Ellefson was born in Norway in June, 1824, and was an early settler in La Salle county, Illinois. He came, as already related, and secured lands in sections twenty-three and twenty-four. In the fall of 1855, Ole Mikkelson secured 160 acres in section one.

During the summer of 1856, pioneers swarmed into town, and a large part of it was settled; some of them will be here mentioned.

Norman A. Graves came in upon the scene in the fall. Mr. Graves secured the organization of the school district, and the establishment of the Highland postoffice, of which he was the first postmaster. He was the first justice of the peace there when the state was organized, and retained the position for several years; was county commissioner for one year, and superintendent of schools while this was a separate office for each town. John Anderson arrived in June, 1856, and surrounded a claim

in sections twenty-six and thirty-five. He came from Norway by way of Wisconsin, where he had sojourned nearly ten years. Martin S. Anderson found his way here and secured tracts of land in sections twenty-three and twenty-six. Knud Olson put in a personal appearance in the summer of 1856, and placed his sign manual in section twenty-three. David Whaalahan in 1856 wended his way up the Root river to section nine and surrounded a claim with $5 in his pocket, and went to work for himself and for his neighbors, and made every blow count. As showing what work will accomplish, he had at one time 1,800 acres of land, and when the railroad came he was offered $7,000 in cash for one eighty, which was rejected. Conrad Desmond secured a large tract of land in section three, near the river, in the spring of 1856. He was a single man, and put up a rude hut with a straw roof, put in five acres of corn, and secured a bountiful yield, and in the fall built a more comfortable residence, using some of the bark from the deserted Indian village. Holver Kittleson was an early comer, and secured 160 acres in section one. He lived there alone till married in 1859, and died September 15, 1866

Osman Johnson came from Rock county, Wisconsin, in 1858, and took a farm in section twenty-two. He did honorable service during the war, in the Nineteenth Wisconsin Regiment, and was in Libby prison and Andersonville.

Among the early pioneers was Gilbert Holt, who settled in section thirty, and whose name was afterwards given the town. Early in the seventies he transferred himself to Dakota. G. J. Onstine secured a claim in section twenty-five. Patrick Gribbin came to Holt, locating on sections twenty-eight and twenty-nine in 1856. In 1868 this was sold, and, in company with his brother Peter, he secured the site for the mill which they put up in section twenty-one.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Holt township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: January 18, Caleb C. Onstine, 13; March 16, Michael H. Onstine, —; April 30, Timothy McCarthy, 2; June 8, Ole Jacobson, 13-14; June 8, George J. Onstine, 13-24; August 15, John Johnson, 14-23.

Those who secured land in 1856 were as follows: February 29, Johan Hanssen, 33; April 28, John Elefson, 23-24; May 3, Nancy Sullivan, 4-9; May 10, Ole Peterson, 35; May 27, Jeremiah Carpenter, 22-23-26-27; May 27, Miles Carpenter, 25; Peter Gribben, 21; May 27, Bartholomew McGowan, 18; May 29, Peter Gribbins, 28; June 13, Jeremiah Griffith, 13; June 20, Abraham

Scranton, 25; July 2, Con Desmond, 3; July 2, Dennis McCarty, 2-3; July 3, Knut Oleson, 7; July 10, George W. Swarthout, 35; August 1, John Whelen, 8-9; August 4, Patrick Sullivan, 9; August 27, William L. Brown, 25; November 4, John Desmond, Sr., 4-5; November 15, Erastus W. Scelye, 14; November 13, Erastus W. Seelye, 23-24; December 2, Isabella Oleson, 26.

Early Events. The first white child reported to be born in town was Thomas Johnson, on March 29, 1856, a son of John Johnson Rodeback. The first child of American parentage was Charles O. Graves, son of N. A. Graves. The first representative to the legislature was George J. Onstine.

Political Organization. At first the present towns of Holt and Norway were organized together as one town and called Douglas. The division of the town was made in 1860, and the town of Norway created from the eastern half, a regular government township of thirty-six sections. When the new town was set off, of course, in equity, it would be liable for its share of the public indebtedness, so in March, 1861, a settlement was secured and Norway paid over to the mother town her share of the liabilities, which was $2.69. The west side of the town, in what is now Holt, was quite well settled with English speaking people, who dominated in town affairs, as the east part, which now constitutes the town of Norway, was peopled by Scandinavians.

The organization of the town of Douglas dates from May 11, 1858. The name of Douglas drops out of sight in 1862, which was the probable result of a law of the state forbidding that more than one town should bear the same name, as there is in this case a Douglas in Dakota county. The officers of the first town meeting were: Chairman, G. J. Onstine; moderator, M. Onstine; clerk, Niles Carpenter. The officers elected were: Supervisors, G. J. Onstine (chairman), Patrick Gribbin and Simon Thompson; clerk, Niles Carpenter; collector, John Russell; overseers of highways and bridges, John Peace, N. A. Graves and Andrew S. Byholt; overseer of the poor, H. M. Onstine; constables, John Russell and Ellert Ellerston. The judges of election were G. J. Onstine and John Russell. The administration of town affairs from that time to this has been of a commendable character.

Highland Village is a hamlet on the boundary line between sections thirty-five and thirty-six, which brings it in the southeast corner of the town. A northeast and southwest road intersects the section line road at this point, and N. A. Graves and Andrew Shattuck, who had farms here, realizing the need of a blacksmith shop, induced Christian Flohr to locate here by each donating a piece of land, the one for a residence and the other

for a shop. This was in 1860, and he kept hammering away until 1872, when the shop was disposed of to Westley & Olson, who had a short time before started a rival concern. In 1866 a store was started by two brothers, Ole and James Gjermundson, in the house built by the first blacksmith for a residence. They kept it running for about eighteen months and sold to Onstine & Jones. Two years later it was disposed of to Graves & Son, who kept up the stock for a year, when it was turned over to Mr. Rye, who at the end of a year failed in business. Andrew Olson was the next incumbent, and he kept turning over the goods for eight years. Some time in 1880, the store was rented to J. D. Elliot who, in 1882, sold his stock of goods to Christianson & Co.

Highland Postoffice. N. A. Graves procured the establishment of a postoffice in 1857, and was the first postmaster. The office was at his residence up to 1861, when the place was given to Mr. Shattuck. After one year it went to the store of Jones & Onstine, with A. D. Elliot as postmaster. When first established, the mail was brought by different persons for some time until a route was opened from LaCresent by the way of Hokah, Houston, Dedham or Yucatan, Highland and Preston, the carrier making the trip weekly, and not infrequently on foot when the roads were impassable for teams. The last postmistress was Mary Nepstad, and the patrons now receive their mail from Whalan.

The Village Pump. One of the institutions of the hamlet is the well. This was completed in December, 1870, and previous to this time the dependence for water was upon cisterns, surface ponds, and the creek, a mile distant. This well is situated in the public street and is sixty feet deep, the last thirty-seven feet being through solid rock, and the cost was $200, one-half of which was borne by Mr. Shattuck and the rest by other citizens.

WHALAN VILLAGE.

Whalan is a small village on the line of the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. It has two general stores, kept by A. Anderson and T. E. Halvorson; a hardware store, kept by H. A. Anderson; a hotel, kept by A. Culbertson; a restaurant and grocery store, kept by D. M. Backman; a photograph gallery, kept by O. J. Hallum, and several other business enterprises.

Early History. The land where the village is located was originally owned by John Whaalahan, as he spelled his name, but usage dropped two a's and an h and it became Whalan. The land was presented to the railroad company on condition of

having a station here, and that of the village lots Mr. Whaahalan should have every twentieth. The first house was built the season that the railroad reached this point, in 1868, by J. D. Cameron. It was kept as a hotel for a year or so, then as a warehouse for grain. The same season a store was opened by Carr & Smith. In the course of a year or two Smith sold out to Carr, and in 1871, he sold to A. Ward, who kept it until his death in the spring of 1879. During that season the hotel was erected by Canfield & Crowl. After one or two changes of proprietorship it fell into the hands of Nelson Canfield.

George Dyer, in 1866, erected a store. The first drug store was opened in 1873, by Weiser & Ring. Mr. Ring soon became the sole owner, who soon after sold to A. Backman. The same season, 1868, when the village started, another store was built by Joseph Olson and Thomas Anderson. It was rented to John Iverson, who kept it up to 1869, and then moved to a store opposite Mr. Dyer, which had been put up by J. Whaalahan, but the business was closed out about a year afterwards. Among other early merchants were Johnson & Peterson, Ole Osten, Greaser & Co., J. Walker, John Russell, Mr. Downing, and John Streeter.

Municipal History. Whalan was incorporated as a village, March 30, 1876. The first officers were: President, John Russell; trustees, J. Downing, Andrew Hanson, G. H. Dyer; recorder, G. C. Cooley; treasurer, Paige Downing; justice, D. F. Jones; constable, C. G. Jordan.

1877—President, John Russell; trustees, G. H. Dwyer, Nels Canfield, A. Hanson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, Paige Downing.

1878—President, J. Downing; trustees, Nels Canfield, A. Hanson, H. M. Onstine; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, Paige Downing.

1879—President, H. M. Onstine; trustees, Cornelius Nelson, A. Hanson, John Streeter; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, John Whalan.

1880—President, H. M. Onstine; trustees, John Streeter, A. Hanson, J. A. Van Liew; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, D. F. Jones.

1881—President, H. M. Onstine; trustees, A. Hanson, Cornelius Nelson, John Streeter; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, D. F. Jones.

1882—President, G. H. Dyer; trustees, Nels Canfield, Cornelius Nelson, John Streeter; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, D. F. Jones.

1883—President, Nels Canfield; trustees, H. M. Onstine, A. E. Anderson, William D. Culbertson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, D. F. Jones.

1884—President, G. H. Dyer; trustees, C. Larson, William D. Culbertson, John Streeter; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, D. F. Jones.

1885—President, John Streeter; trustees, A. Anderson, A. Hanson, C. Larson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, William D. Culbertson.

1886—President, H. M. Onstine; trustees, A. Hanson, C. Larson, Anthony Anderson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, John Streeter.

1887—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, A. Hanson, C. Canfield, A. Anderson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, Christ Larson.

1888—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, William B. Dixon, A. Anderson, William D. Culbertson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, Christ Larson.

1889—President, C. Canfield; trustees, D. F. Jones, C. Holman, P. Paulson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, C. Larson.

1890—President, C. Canfield; trustees, D. F. Jones, C. Holmen, Hans O. Westby; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, C. Larson. This year the date of election was changed from January to March.

1891—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, G. H. Dyer, A. Anderson, C. Holmen; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, C. Larson.

1892—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, D. F. Jones, C. Holmen, N. Thorson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, C. Larson.

1893—President, G. H. Larson; trustees, A. E. Anderson, E. E. Bothum, C. Holmen; recorder, N. Thorson; treasurer, F. W. Shattuck.

1894—President, A. L. Jones; trustees, T. Thorson, A. E. Anderson, E. E. Bothum; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, F. W. Shattuck.

1895—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, L. M. Dyer, T. Thorson, A. Steen; recorder, N. Thorson; treasurer, F. W. Shattuck.

1896—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, A. E. Anderson, A. Steen, L. M. Dyer; recorder, N. Thorson; treasurer, C. J. Olson.

1897—President, W. D. Culbertson; trustees, H. A. Anderson, M. L. Anderson, T. Thorson; treasurer, C. J. Olson; recorder, A. L. Jones.

1898—President, A. L. Jones; trustees, A. Anderson, H. O. Westby, T. Thorson; recorder, A. Backman; treasurer, C. J. Olson.

1899—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, T. Thorson, O. E. Laugen, D. F. Jones; recorder, W. J. Severance; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1900—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, A. Anderson, O. E. Laugen, John Desmond; recorder, A. L. Jones; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1901—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, O. E. Laugen, John Desmond, A. Anderson; recorder, A. L. Jones; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1902—President, M. L. Anderson; trustees, John Desmond, C. Johnson, A. Anderson; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1903—President, M. L. Anderson; trustees, A. Anderson, K. J. Bostrack, Anton Steen; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1904—President, M. L. Anderson; trustees, K. J. Bostrack, D. J. Whalan, A. Culbertson; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1905—President, Anthony Anderson; trustees, M. S. Anderson, H. A. Anderson, A. N. Syhre; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1906—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, K. J. Bostrack, H. S. Backman, E. L. Dyer; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1907—President, A. Backman; trustees, A. Anderson, K. J. Bostrack, A. M. Olson; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1908—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, D. J. Whalan, A. M. Olson, H. A. Anderson; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1909—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, D. J. Whalan, T. E. Halvorson, A. M. Olson; recorder, C. J. Olson; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1910—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, D. J. Whalan, T. E. Halvorson, A. M. Olson; recorder, D. M. Backman; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1911—President, L. H. Haasarud; trustees, M. S. Anderson, O. K. Eeg, O. J. Hallum; recorder, D. M. Backman; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

1912—President, A. Culbertson; trustees, A. Anderson, A. L. Jones, A. M. Olson; recorder, D. M. Backman; treasurer, A. E. Anderson.

Waterworks. The erection of the waterworks resulted mainly through the efforts of President A. Culbertson. His persistence and enterprising spirit found favor with the people and in September, 1899, a lot was purchased from Knudt Johnson and a cistern erected thereon. The cistern, which is circular, has a capacity of 1,500 barrels and is located half a mile northeast of the village. After the erection of the cistern the work progressed rapidly on the laying of the mains and was completed in the fall of 1900. A pressure of ninety pounds to the square inch is obtained, and, with eight hydrants and 1,500 feet of hose,

affords ample fire protection. The water is excellent, being pumped from a liberal depth by windmill power. The complete system cost the village about $4,000. As the treasury was well supplied with money before the undertaking, no bonds were voted.

The Village Hall, which is located near the center of the village, was erected about the year 1888. The village and township both use this building, though it is the property of the village. It is a wooden structure, two stories high. The upper story is used for social purposes and the lower story is used for housing the fire apparatus, the polling place and jail. The jail, which has four cells, was recently condemned. The hall was erected at a cost of about $1,000. There is no regular fire company, but in case of need the citizens turn out under the direction of Anthony Anderson.

CHAPTER XXV

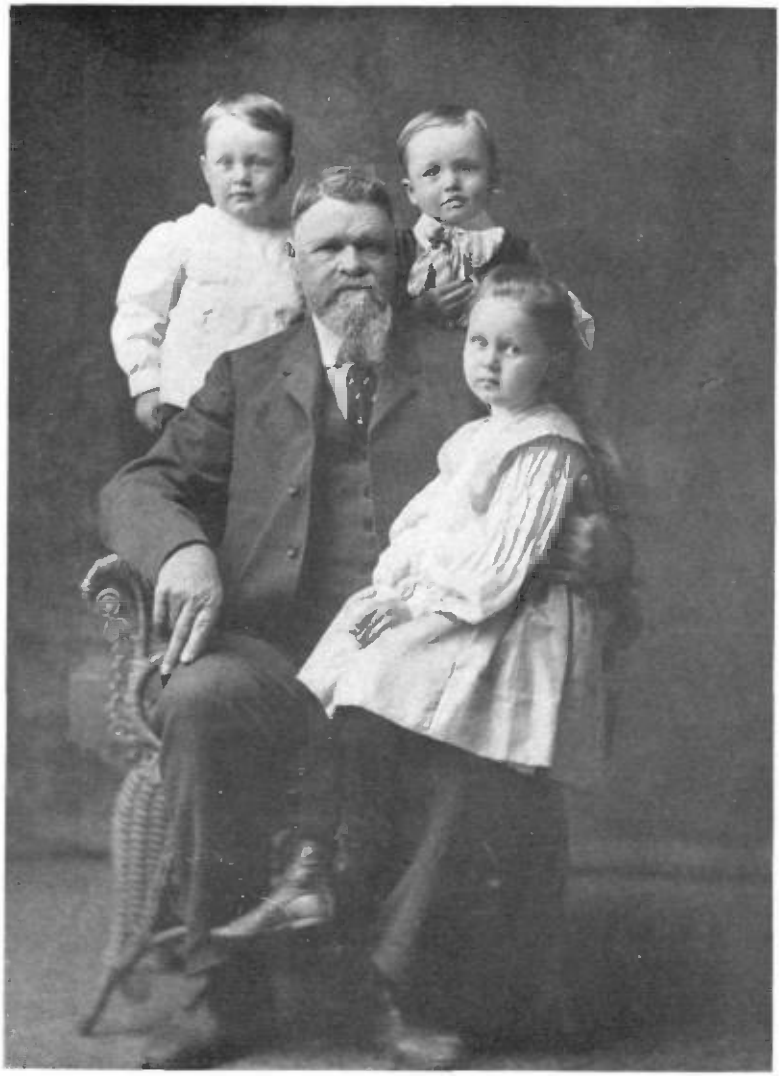
MABEL AND NEWBURG TOWNSHIP.

Mabel Village—Present Activities—Commercial Club—Telephone Company—Grain and Stock Company—Early History—Municipal History—Water Works—Newburg Township—First Settlement in County—Early Days by William Willford—Bellville—Newburg—Other Items.

Mabel is an incorporated village on the Reno-Preston division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and is located in sections 26 and 27, Newburg township. The first settler on the present site was William Loomis, who came in 1853. The village was platted in 1879 and incorporated in 1892.

At the present time Mabel is a flourishing hamlet, well laid out, with good sidewalks, waterworks system, fire protection, telephone service, good schools and a number of churches, solid banks and a live newspaper.

Among the present activities of Mabel may be mentioned: General stores—E. L. Tollefson & Co., Christopherson & Danielson, Bacon & Erickson, P. J. Heggen. Drugs—A. Jones & Son (D. W.). Furniture and undertaking—M. C. Christopherson and Fingerson & Olson. Restaurants and groceries—Lee Brothers (T. C. and L. C.), Bacon & Stroud, A. C. Wold. Implement stores—O. K. Wold, B. K. Swenson, Taber & Eastman. Hardware—Fawcett & Fawcett (G. & I.), J. J. Larson. Harness shop—J. P. Dahl & Son (O. P.). Millinery—Mrs. C. Dunn and Rose Antrim. Lumber yards—Colman Lumber Co. (S. C. Brace) and K. Olson. Elevators—Tollefson & Johnson, Mabel Elevator Co. (P. C. Johnson, pres.). Automobile supplies—G. L. Gabrielson, Mabel Telephone Exchange (G. L. Gabrielson). Banks—First National and State Bank of Mabel. Mabel Record (E. R. Antrim). Hotel—H. A. Gunvalson. Postoffice—D. W. Jones, postmaster. Physicians—H. A. Nass, J. C. Lannin, C. W. Cady. Dentists—D. A. Haines, L. V. Peterson. Churches—Methodist Episcopal, United Norwegian Lutheran, Norwegian Lutheran Evangelical. There is one lodge, the Brotherhood of American Yeomen. There are also the usual livery stables, barbers, real estate agents, insurance agencies, grain and stock buyers and the other customary lines of endeavor. There have never been any saloons.



ELLEF TOLLEFSON AND GRANDCHILDREN

The Mabel Commercial Club was organized in February, 1912. It has a membership of fifty business men, professional men and prominent citizens, its object being for advertising the town, to promote sociability and for the general good of the community. The officers are : President, JC White; vice president, Hadly Larson; secretary, D. A. Haines; treasurer, F. W. Bacon.

Mabel Telephone Company. Mabel has excellent telephone service, with an exchange which connects with the two long distance lines, and with numerous farmers' lines. There are 110 instruments in use on the local lines and 500 on the farmers' lines. No less than fifteen farmers' lines connect with this exchange. The "Bell" company established an office in the drug store of Jones & Son in 1896. Three years later the "Standard" company opened an office in the Bank of Mabel. The exchange is now located in the place of G. L. Gabrielson, who is the manager. The Mabel Telephone Company was established in May, 1903. The officers are: President, John N. Johnson; secretary, H. H. Hammer; treasurer, N. H. Nelson; directors, Ole Dahl, E. C. Erickson and Grandville Fawcett.

Early History. In the fall of 1879 Frank Adams, the chief constructing engineer of the railroad which was then being constructed through Newburg township, purchased portions of the farms of C. D. Taber and William Loomis and platted the village of Mabel, naming it in memory of a little daughter who had died a short time previous.

Almost before the platting was completed Jones Brothers, general merchants; E. L. Tollefson, general merchant; Jones & Tamnes, hardware merchants, and Landlord Thompson, a hotel man, were on their way to the new village to open up their business establishments.

McMichael & Son, represented by Mr. Fisher, and McCormack, represented by E. M. Snell, were soon ready to buy grain. Three lumber yards were started before snow came, one by Day Brothers, of Decorah, represented by Mr. Tilford; another by Hemmingway & Barclay, of Lansing, and the third by Edwards & Osborne, of La Crosse, represented by Mr. Anderson. Competition was keen and within two years only Edwards & Osborne were left.

John Thompson and Chris. Enger also located in the village in 1879 and opened blacksmith shops. Joseph Apple started a wagon shop and Bentz & Taylor a grocery store. E. M. Snell and Frank Jones were the first to erect dwellings within the present limits of the village, occupying them during the winter of 1879-80. In the spring of 1880 Mrs. S. C. Brace opened a milliner shop on Main street, and Frank Adams commenced the

building of a brick building which was subsequently occupied as a bank.

This constitutes all the business ventures of Mabel in the fall of 1879 and the spring of 1880. Since then the growth has been satisfactory and substantial.

The first physician in the village was Dr. E. H. Burridge, who opened a drug store and also practiced medicine. The first child born was Amy, the daughter of E. L. Tollefson. Frank Adams, the proprietor of the town site, offered Mr. Tollefson his choice of village lots if he would name the young lady Mabel, after the village.

Municipal History. Mabel was incorporated in the spring of 1892, and the first election was held at Hankes Hall June 6, 1892. The first officers were: President, A. Jones; trustees, George C. Hellickson, E. C. Erickson, O. J. Larson; treasurer, J. Seelye; recorder, S. C. Brace; justices, D. P. Bacon, W. F. Hart; constables, R. P. Johnson, N. C. Vought; marshal, C. D. Taber.

The next election was held March 14, 1893, and since then the elections have always been held in March. The village officers since the first have been:

1893—President, A. Jones; trustees, E. C. Erickson, George C. Hellickson, S. C. Brace; treasurer, J. Seelye; recorder, D. C. Osgood; justice, D. C. Osgood.

1894—President, A. Jones; trustees, S. C. Brace, George C. Hellickson, E. C. Erickson; treasurer, J. Seelye; recorder, William Hart; justice, D. P. Bacon; constable, Arne Nelson.

1895—President, A. Jones; trustees, E. C. Erickson, George C. Hellickson, S. C. Brace; treasurer, J. Seelye; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justice, L. Mock.

1896—President, S. C. Brace; trustees, E. C. Erickson; A. Jones, C. D. Taber; treasurer, J. Seelye; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justice, D. P. Bacon.

1897—President, S. C. Brace; trustees, E. C. Erickson, C. D. Taber, A. Jones; treasurer, V. H. Gilmore; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justice, H. E. Wheaton; constables, William Harkness, J. M. Bolland.

1898—President, S. C. Brace; trustees, E. C. Erickson, C. D. Taber, A. Jones; treasurer, V. H. Gilmore; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justice, D. P. Bacon; constable, J. M. Bolland. At this election the people voted to divide the village from the township as a separate election and assessment district.

1899—President, D. A. Haines; trustees, C. D. Taber, J. N. Johnson, E. C. Erickson; treasurer, V. H. Gilmore; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justice, J. N. Johnson; constables, J. M. Bolland, G. P. Onsgard.

1900—President, D. A. Haines; trustees, C. D. Taber, E. C. Erickson, K. Olson; treasurer, V. H. Gilmore; recorder, A. L. Tollefson; justices, J. N. Johnson, William Harkness; constable, J. M. Lein.

1901—President, D. A. Haines; trustees, C. D. Taber, E. C. Erickson, H. H. Hammer; treasurer, V. H. Gilmore; recorder, A. L. Tollefson; justice, D. G. Stewart; constables, J. M. Bolland, G. P. Onsgard.

1902—President, D. A. Haines; trustees, H. H. Hammer, L. O. Lein, M. C. Christopherson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, C. E. Meader; justice, J. N. Johnson.

1903—President, D. A. Haines; trustees, M. C. Christopherson, L. O. Lein, O. H. Tollefson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, Brady Olson; justice, D. P. Bacon; constables, C. A. Dahl, G. P. Onsgard.

1904—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, L. O. Lein, E. C. Erickson, O. H. Tollefson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, Brady Olson; justice, J. N. Johnson.

1905—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, E. C. Erickson, L. O. Lein, O. H. Tollefson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justices, John N. Johnson, D. P. Bacon; constables, E. S. Trimbel, L. J. Antrim.

1906—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, Tollef Lee, Ole Burreson, M. C. Christopherson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, F. W. Bacon.

1907—President, S. C. Brace; trustees, Ole Burreson, E. A. Carrier, K. Olson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justices, J. N. Johnson, D. P. Bacon; constables, Fred Wemett, L. J. Antrim.

1908—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, D. A. Haines, Martin Walhus, Ole Burreson; treasurer, A. L. Tollefson; recorder, Fred W. Bacon.

1909—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, Martin Walhus, D. A. Haines, Ole Burreson; treasurer, W. C. Bacon; recorder, Fred W. Bacon; justices, D. P. Bacon, J. O. Backman; constables, Fred Wemett, L. J. Antrim.

1910—President, Martin Walhus; trustees, John N. Johnson, M. C. Christopherson, O. P. Dahl; treasurer, W. C. Bacon; recorder, Fred W. Bacon.

1911—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, M. C. Christopherson, J. N. Johnson, Ole P. Dahl; treasurer, W. C. Bacon; recorder, G. L. Gabrielson; justices, J. O. Backman, JC White; constables, Hans Faraason, L. J. Antrim.

1912—President, H. H. Hammer; trustees, G. Fawcett, P. C. Johnson, Martin Walhus; treasurer, N. H. Nelson; recorder, G. L. Gabrielson; assessor, Edward Rank.

Water Works. After considerable agitation in favor of water works, the people of Mabel held an election April 14, 1896, and voted $5,000 bonds for the purpose of furnishing the village with a system of water works. Owing to technicalities and the difficulty of disposing of the bonds, two successive elections were held on the question, December 22, 1896, and March 16, 1897. Finally on April 13, 1897, an election was held which resulted in thirty-four for and eight against the improvement. The bonds were sold to John Jacobson. The system was completed in the fall of 1897 and has received several additions since then. The mains cover the principal business and residential portions of the village. The power plant contains a twenty horse boiler, steam power. The water tank is located on Butler's hill and rests on a thirty foot tower. It has a capacity of 3,500 barrels.

Fire Protection. The Mabel Volunteer Fire Department was organized in November, 1897, with C. D. Taber as chief. The fire apparatus is in good condition and the water pressure is sufficient for all needs. In 1905 the department was reorganized. C. A. Dahl is the present chief. JC White is the chairman of the company; Ole Dahl treasurer and G. L. Gabrielson secretary. The captain of the hose company is L. J. Antrim. The captain of the hook and ladder company is Henry Danielson. The company at the present time consists of twenty men, divided into a hose company and a hook and ladder company. The present members of the department are: T. C. Lee, Otto Faraason, Hans Faraason, M. C. Christopherson, G. L. Gabrielson, A. C. Lee, L. J. Antrim, Ole Dahl, Christ Dahl, Ole Bersie, Knute Olson, William Malder, Fred Wemett, JC White, R. Danielson, Henry Danielson, John Sedsvold, Carl Ramlo, Oscar Wemett, John Halseth.

NEWBURG TOWNSHIP.

Newburg is in the southeast corner of the county, Houston being on the east, Iowa on the south, Canton on the west and Preble on the north. Few sections of country seem to be more abundantly supplied with natural advantages than this. The contour of the land is slightly undulating, dotted with small groves of timber, and the soil is a uniform dark rich loam with a clay subsoil, well adapted to the cereals and to root crops or for grazing. The southwest sections are covered with heavy timber. Fresh water is abundant from numerous springs with which other parts of the county are not so highly favored, but the farmers resort to drilled wells from 150 to 200 feet deep, from which a plentiful supply of good water is raised, usually by wind-mill power.

Riceford creek rises near the southwest corner of the town and runs in an easterly direction for some distance, when it dives beneath the surface to reappear just as it leaves the township, in section 24. During a high stage of water the surplus beyond the capacity of the subterranean channel flows on the surface. Another stream arises near the village of Newburg, and another loops down into section 6, and uniting runs north into the next town. A small creek rises near the western edge of section 1 and runs east to Riceford creek.

Early History. The first claim staked off in Newburg was by ———— Kincaid, a married man, March 8, 1851, the claim being in section 32, where the "West farm," so called, is now located. On the same day a second claim was staked off by ———— Stevens, a single man, and was a part of section 28, now known as the "Edmunds farm." March 9 Mr. Kincaid and Mr. Stevens, in company with Albert Nichols, who two days before had made a claim on section 25, Canton, returned to their homes on Fountain prairie, in Wisconsin, to prepare for making settlement on their claims in Minnesota.

They returned to Minnesota in May of the same year, with their outfit consisting of oxen, wagons, cows, breaking plows and provisions for a part of the summer, arriving at their claims about June 1. Albert Nichols found his claim unmolested, but Mr. Kincaid and Mr. Stevens were surprised to find their claims in the possession of others.

Joseph Lovesey and family, who hailed from Illinois, had made settlement on Mr. Kincaid's claim, in section 32, and George Cannon and family, who also came from Illinois, were in possession of Mr. Stevens' claim in section 28. Mr. Lovesey retained his claim until July 1, 1853, and then sold to Abram West and removed to Houston county. George Cannon held his claim for about four years, then sold to Hiram Edmonds, and also went to Houston county, where he died.

Calvin Chandler put in an appearance in the spring of 1852. He was from Bangor, Me., and made residence for a time in Beloit, Wis. He located in section 30, and remained about eighteen years, when he removed to Martin county, where he died.

It is alleged that a man named Evans settled near the Iowa line in 1851 or 1852, but the information is not verified.

John M. Monroe and family left Rockford, Ill., June 3, 1852, with one span of horses, two pairs of oxen and provisions and sought the "Western wilds," and after the experience of "camping out" about a month, arrived in Minnesota and staked off a claim on what is now section 26, where some of the family has since resided.

Lars Tollefson came to this township in 1851, and after looking the country over, went back to Wisconsin. In 1852 he brought his family here, among the children being E. L. Tollefson, who afterward became so prominent a citizen. Lewis L. Tollefson, son of Lars Tollefson, was born July 4, 1852, his being the first white birth in the county. As is usual in arriving at the first birth in a county, this point is disputed, but A. L. Tollefson, the Mabel banker, who has been much interested in the study of early history, has often heard this date given by his father, E. L. Tollefson, and the date was also often given by Lewis L. Tollefson himself. The same date is also inscribed on his tombstone.

The following list of early settlers, prepared by William Willford, differs somewhat from the foregoing account:

1851—Joseph Lovesey, George Cannon, Calvin Chandler.

1852—John M. Monroe, G. E. Monroe, Louis Monroe, Levi Monroe.

1853—Hans Valder, Lars Tollefson, Francis Inghram, William Loomis, Edmund Bell, Henry Bell, E. L. Tollefson, A. D. Gray, Sr., T. L. Tollefson, Abraham West, William McHenry, William Weir, William Bly, Hans Arneson, A. G. Ellestad, I. G. Ellestad, G. G. Ellestad, George Dibble and Alanson Loomis.

1854—Lars Reirson (Halstenrud), Ole B. Garnaas, Hans B. Garnaas, John Plomteaux, Charles B. Reynolds, Jeremiah Clark, Austin P. Goldberg, Elias Morey, David Taber, George Edmonds, Arne P. Goldberg, Swen P. Goldburg, Andrew Ingerbret, John Edmunds, Nels Gaarnes, A. H. Butler, Hiram Edmunds, Dr. F. Worth, Park Williams, Enoch Wickersham, Alexander Orin, Moses Orin, Horace Kingsbury, E. S. Kingsbury, Hiram Willsie.

1855—Milton Sherburne, Justus Seelye, Hial N. Sherburne, George Miles, Gabriel Gabrielson, Alonzo Gustavous Gray, Jonah Cadwallader, A. D. Gray, Jr., Christopherson Hellickson, Alfred Clark, B. Randall, Ezra Stroud, William Stroud, James K. Stroud, Montgomery Stroud, Lars Jacobson, Michael Tollefson, Lester Griswold, Eben Seelye, Thomas Seelye, Asa Seelye, W. N. Gilmore, John Rank, Andrew Miner, J. G. Miner, Levi Hamlin, Matthew Gagen.

1856—John Willsie, Paul Hanson, Lemuel Jones, Joshua Gove, Ed. Harkness, James Harkness, Nelson H. Miner, Louis Harkness, M. J. Willsie.

1857—Peter P. Thompson, Lars Thompson, Joel B. Harkness, George Harkness, Sr., Ole Helgeson, William R. McDonald, James McDonald, Lyman McDonald, William Ramsey.

1858—Youngs Allen, Andrew Schei, Anthony Schei, Soren Nelson, Swen Nelson, Nels Thompson, Ole Tollefson (Big Ole), Ole Olson (Black Ole), William Thorp, Orrin Dibble, Charles W. Bacon, Colby Bacon.

1859—Maxson L. Potter, Stephen W. Hiatt, Joseph R. Griswold, Peter Johnson, Harvey Johnson, Ira Morey, C. Merwin, Aaron Merwin, William Merwin, Anson Merwin, John Donaldson, Gilbert Donaldson, Joel Butler, Frank Newcomer, Samuel Newcomer.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Newburg township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: August 8, William T. Bly, 6; August 8, Calvin Chandler, 30; August 8, Andrew W. Gray, 7; August 8, George R. Miller, 6; August 11, Jeremiah Clark, 18; August 11, Elias C. Koonts, 19; August 16, Archibald Donald, 31; August 16, Even Ellison, 31; August 16, Lars Johnson, 8; August 16, Wade Madeson, 5; August 16, Soren Nielson, 8; August 16, Thore Oleson, 4; August 16, Peter Peterson, 4; August 17, Edwin Blackmarr, 32; August 17, Jonas Edmunds, 32; August 17, Hiram Edmonds, 28; August 17, Abraham West, 32; August 18, Enos T. Gray, 7; August 23, Niles Oleson, 34; August 23, Arne Pederson, 32-33; August 23, Swend Pederson, 33; August 24, Ellert Evenson, 31; August 28, Francis Ingraham, 19; August 31, Christopher Hellikson, 19; September 1, John Plomtaux, 5-6; September 1, William Ramsay, 6; September 1, Elizabeth Server, 6; September 2, Andrew Bronson, 28-29; September 2, Engoobrick Christopherson, 20; September 2, Engebrick Engebrickson, 20; September 2, Ever Gulbrandson, 20; September 2, Gulbran Gulbranson, 29; September 2, William Weir, 21; September 5, Ole Jorgenson, 5; September 5, Thore Nelson, 5; September 7, Arne Arneson, 33; September 7, Ole Bareson, 18; September 7, Nels Bareson, 17-18; September 7, Bear Oleson, —; September 7, Austin Peterson, 18; September 9, George West, 33; September 14, Alexander H. Butler, 28; September 23, John Louisson, 31; October 17, George R. Edmunds, 32; October 18, Hans Gullingorud, 33; November 28, Harvey Bell, 25; November 29, Hiram J. Willsie, 7; December 15, Alfred Clark, 29-30; December 30, John H. Hanu, 30.

Early Days. Newburg is one of the most historic towns in the county. Coming as it did in the Winnebago territory, it was opened to settlement earlier than the larger part of the county, and received many settlers from 1851 to 1856. William Willford has written the following account of early days in Newburg:

This prosperous township claims as an "old land mark" an historic mill on Riceford creek in Houston county which was located but a few rods east of the Newburg township line and was built, owned and operated by W. H. Rowe. Mr. Rowe was

a rare genius, a natural mechanic and built this mill according to his own notions and plans. The water wheel and machinery of this mill, with the exceptions of a few bolts and castings were all wrought by his own hands. The mill stones were taken from the hill side near by and hammered and chisled in shape to suit his idea of buhrs necessary to do the contemplated work. I never visited the mill myself, but will relate what a Methodist minister who was known in Colorado as the "snow shoe itinerant," and whose name was John L. Dyer, the proprietor of Lenora, tells in his autobiography about this historic mill of 1856 and 1857. He said: "On this charge there was one of the most diminutive mills that was ever seen in Minnesota. While we were looking at it doing its level best two other men new in the country gazed on it with astonishment. And one of them who always would speak in approbation of anything he could, whined out, 'Why, it is the most industrious little mill I ever saw. Just as fast as it grinds one grain it begins on another.' We turned away from the first mill erected in the county with the idea of industry on our minds."

I will narrate another statement made in regard to this little mill in pioneer days as related by a man who resided in Hesper, Ia., for a time and later in Mabel, who had made many visits to this little mill to ascertain the amount of business done. He said in the fifties it was quite difficult to procure wheat flour, for the teams then used were oxen, making travel slow, and tedious, and the flouring mills were somewhat remote from the settlement. It was then quite customary when an early settler exhausted his supply of wheat flour to take a sack containing about a bushel of corn on his shoulder and travel on foot to this little mill and have it ground. On one occasion a near-by neighbor of the miller took his bushel of corn to this mill and requested the miller to grind it so he could take it home with him that day. To this the miller assented. The corn was put in the hopper and the sack was hung to the spout to receive the meal. Mr. Rowe then invited his customer to his house for a "chat" while the mill was grinding the corn. After a short time had elapsed the miller said they would return to the mill, as he thought the corn must be about ground. Mr. Rowe took the lead with his customer following. They entered the mill, went to the buhrs, looked in the hopper and saw the corn was all gone. The miller then took hold of the sack and gave it a slight kick with his foot aud found to their astonishment that the sack was empty. They then began to look around to see where the corn meal was. Upon scrutinizing the buhrs of the mill closely they espied a chipmunk seated below the lower end of the hopper, and this unraveled the whole mystery as to where the

corn had gone. I do not think that my informant ever posed as a Methodist preacher, but I am sure that he was a "Mabelite."

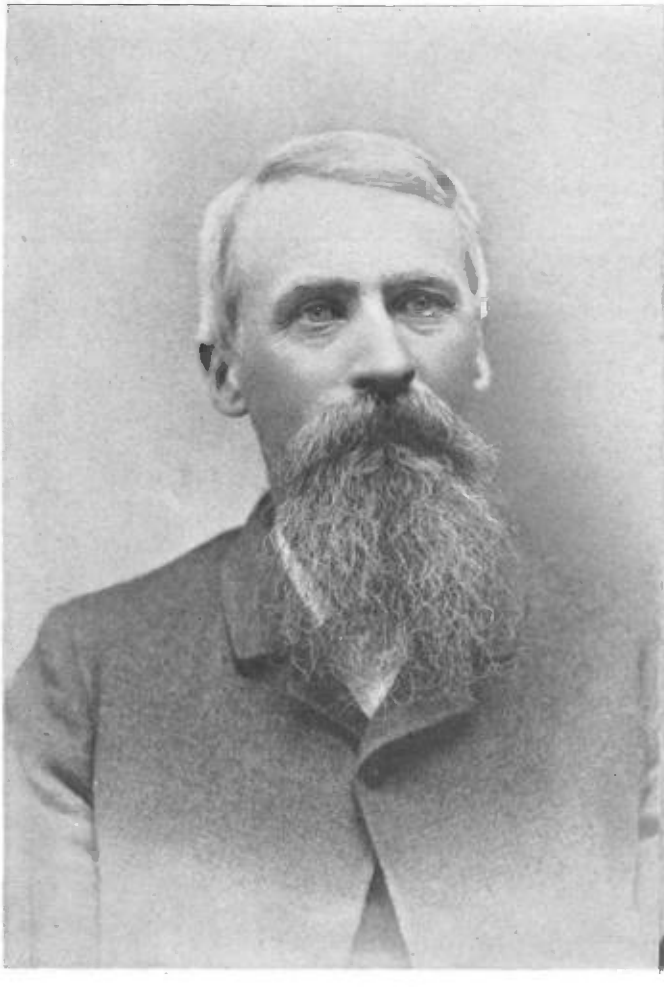
I will again quote from Rev. J. L. Dyer, the "snow-shoe itinerant," who tells in his autobiography how the pioneers of the "fifties" in this great and historic township of Newburg felt on the importance of their salvation. He says: "About the 1st of December, 1857, I undertook to hold a protracted meeting in what was called the red schoolhouse which was quite a large one for those early days of settlement. There, in that vicinity, I visited twenty-seven families—about all in the school district—and found but one old lady that gave evidence of saving grace. I saw all but one family. The day before on my way there I met a boy and asked him about them, and he said 'They have gone away. They expected you would be there—and give them the devil.' I heard of a family at the edge of the settlement that was called religious and hoped to have a good time. The man was a shoemaker. I rapped at the door, was invited in and told them who I was and my business and inquired of them if they enjoyed religion. The lady had been an Episcopalian but the man said he made no pretense but had more religion than men running around to every house and raising such a stir among the people. He had a religion of his own and reverenced his God." Well, the preacher asked him for a bit of his experience and how he performed before his God. He gave no response to the questions, only said he would as soon hear a man swear as pray. "I said, 'We generally ask to pray, but I will waive it on this occasion.' The woman said, 'I hope you won't go away without prayer.' 'Well, if you will kneel with me we will pray.' We knelt and offered a short and pointed prayer. I noticed that the man kept his hat on. When we got up I asked him how he liked the prayer. 'Oh, very well,' he said. 'Now, sir, if you had reverenced your God half as much as you professed you would have taken off your hat while we prayed.' 'I beg pardon,' he said, 'and hope you will excuse me. I never thought of it.' Of course I squared accounts by a promise that he would come to meeting. But while I was visiting some of the leading men got together and resolved to close the schoolhouse and not let me preach any more. That night, near time for service, I met in the vestibule two of the school directors, one a Quaker. He said, 'Mr. Dyer, how long does thee intend to hold these meetings?' 'Don't know.' 'Well, we have concluded these excitements that thee gets up will hurt our school.' I told him that it was thought that religion and education went together, and I was sure that they were not religious enough yet to hurt the school or prevent the children from learning. 'Well,' he replied, 'Mr. J—— thinks the weather is too bad for people to be called

out every night.' 'I suppose Mr. J—— doesn't think it too bad to run opposition twice this week with a dance at his house,' I responded. And so, saying that we could have the house that night they passed on. We had a large audience and good attention, and if ever I gave a warm mess it was on this occasion. At the close I said, 'If there is anyone who wishes to have the meetings continue we would like to have him say so in the congregation.' No one said a word. Then I asked the school directors what they had to say. One of them said, 'You can have the house on Sunday in the daytime, but not in the evening.' 'You all three agree to this?' They replied in the affirmative. I gave them a few words on leaving and said I was about to do as the devil never did, and that was to leave them. I was sorry to do so, as my only desire was to see them converted and saved in heaven. I dismissed the meeting and left. The common talk was that the red schoolhouse was closed against the preacher."

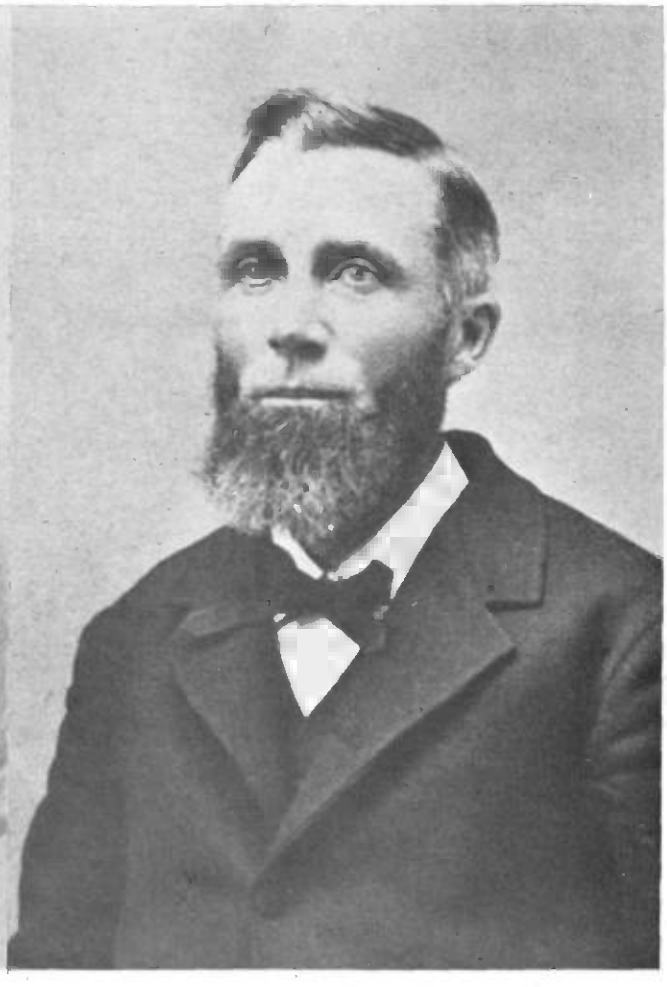
Indian Village. John J. Johnson, who settled in the South Fork valley in the spring of 1854, relates that near his place there was an Indian village containing about one hundred "bucks, squaws and pappooses." While breaking some land a few of the Indians wanted to assist in driving the oxen, but the cattle were afraid of them, and then they tried to hold the plow, but were also unsuccessful in this feat. These Indians were the Winnebagoes, the southeastern part of the county being in their territory.

Political. The town meeting to organize the township was held on May 11, 1858, at the schoolhouse in the village of Newburg. Only one of the regularly appointed judges of election was present. Gabriel Gabrielson, Jeremiah Clark and Calvin Chandler were appointed to fill the vacancies. Alfred Clark was appointed clerk. The officers elected were: Supervisors, A. H. Butler (chairman), JohnWillsie and John Craig; town clerk, Alfred Clark; assessor, G. Gabrielson; collector, Justus Seelye; overseer of the poor, Hiram Edmonds; justices of the peace, Hans Valder and James Harkness; constables, W. R. McDonald and Thomas R. Seelye. The meeting voted that "hogs and sheep should not be free commoners, within the limits of the town." A tax of $250 was voted. The schoolhouse in district No. 38 was designated by acclamation as the place for town meetings.

War Bounty. At a town meeting held on August 23, 1864, it was voted that each volunteer who should enlist and be credited to the quota of the town should receive $300, to be paid, $100 when enlisting, and the balance in two and three years, and to meet this obligation, bonds to the extent of $1,700 were authorized with interest at 10 per cent. The largest expenditure in



CHARLES W. BACON.



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any one year was in 1865, when it went up to a total of $1,930.30.

Bellville. In the spring of 1853, two brothers, Edmund and Henry Bell, started from Mercer county, Ohio, with teams of horses and mules, and a stock of about $500 worth of goods. Stopping in Lansing they procured some lumber, and after a journey of twenty-one days arrived in Newburg, put up their shanty, and opened their goods which they began immediately to sell. They also began to break up and cultivate some land. The lumber cost them, laid down at their door, $58 per 1,000 feet. Lansing, which was thirty miles away, was the nearest from which to replenish their stock of goods. Their building was 20x24 feet, with a shingle roof, which was considered a great luxury at that time. After the first season the goods were procured from Brownsville. The mercantile business was continued up to 1861. In 1855 Edmund Bell secured the kindly offices of H. M. Rice, then territorial delegate, and procured the establishment of a postoffice under the name of Bellville. He was postmaster nine years and C. B. Reynolds was his successor. Later the office was moved to the westward with James M. Donald as postmaster. When the railroad came through the office was moved to Mabel. At an early day a schoolhouse was erected at Bellville, and a hotel and a number of buildings erected. Nothing now remains of the village.

Newburg Village. In the summer of 1853 Hans Valder and family, with six other men and their families, came to this place from La Salle county, Illinois. Mr. Valder located on section 8, the site of the village. At first a log structure 14x16 feet afforded his family a shelter. Basswood bark was peeled off to form a roof and some boards were obtained from Decorah for a floor. He named the place Newburg, which became the postoffice and the town name. The postoffice was secured in 1854, with Mr. Valder as postmaster. On December 18, 1855, the village having been platted, was recorded. Three days after Mr. Valder established himself, Hans Arneson came and began the building of a blacksmith shop of poplar poles, 10x12 feet, which was the first shop of this kind within a circuit of fifteen miles. Mr. Valder soon made an addition to his cabin home and put in a few groceries, and a short time afterwards Gabriel Gabrielson came, and in September, 1855, began business in Mr. Valder's shanty. Three months later he built a log building, 16x20 feet, which was the first regular store in the village. His first stock of goods was procured in Brownsville of J. H. Smith, and consisted of fifty pounds of coffee, two pieces of cotton sheeting, two pieces of denims, several pieces of calico and a few yankee notions, the whole bill footing up about $100. Afterwards he began buying goods in Dubuque. In 1859 Mr. Valder was in business with

O. Dueland. He sold to Thomas Madland, but after two years or so they left. Mr. Valder's house, from the very first, was used as a tavern, but in 1858 he built a more commodious house, with a barn, and called it the "Newburg House." He continued to keep hotel until early in the seventies, when his son conducted it, and afterwards N. Philips, and lastly Dr. George Nye, who, about 1879, moved away. The village now consists of a church, a schoolhouse, a store and a few residences.

Following is an interesting list of all the merchants in the village of Newburg since 1854: Hans Valder, Gabriel Gabrielson, Valder & Dueland, Thomas Madland, Mr. Johnson, Joseph Pearson, F. A. Hilbert, Gabriel Gabrielson, Gabrielson & Johnson, Gabrielson & Tollefson, Gabriel Gabrielson, Harvey & Allen, H. Harvey, Gabriel Gabrielson, Sherven & Spande, Sherven & Olson, D. Sherven, K. K. Lerol, Oscar Bagley, C. W. Eastman and Eastman & Johnson. The firm of Eastman & Johnson, consisting of C. W. Eastman and T. A. Johnson does a flourishing business, and is the trading center for the people for miles around.

O. P. HADLAND

CHAPTER XXVI.

BLOOMFIELD AND BEAVER.

Bloomfield Township—Etna Village—Ostrander Village—Beaver Township—Early Settlement—Early Events—Land Office Records—Incidents of the Early Days.

Bloomfield Township is the second from the south on the western boundary of the county. Its contiguous neighbors are Spring Valley on the north, Forestville on the east, Beaver on the south and Mower county on the west. Cutting across the township in a diagonal way are four different geological formations. The stream that bisects its territory near the center of the town is the south branch of the Root river, and there are several creeks joining this, most of them coming from a northern direction. The little streams in the northern part of the town flow in that direction to mingle with the waters of another branch of Root river.

The western and middle parts of the town are prairie, and the southeastern, bluffy. The soil is of that peculiar black character so common in this region. Along the bottoms there is heavy timber on both sides of the river, while in the southeastern part it is hilly and rocky.

Early Settlement. The first settlers in Bloomfield were probably Russell Rexford and family. Mr. Rexford died in 1856, and his widow married David Bender. One son died in the southern prison at Macon, Ga. The same year William T. Bly, a Baptist missionary, took up his abode in the township. John Bateman made some improvements this year, but did not settle until the following year.

At about the same time the sturdy pioneers from Norway began to arrive and settle in the central and western part of the town along the streams. Among those who led this influx were Peter Hadland and Ole and Mathias Hellickson.

Other settlers were:

1854—William B. McNee, G. W. Craig, John Bateman, S. H. Bateman, Albro Baker and C. T. Baker, Even Stensen and others.

1855—A. G. Langum, J. H. Shaw, George Barnes, Daniel Carey, Luther Wilcox.

1856—Hans C. Gullickson.

1857—William Ostrander, William Truggs.

1858—W. J. Sherwin.

1859—Hawley Cooke.

Early Events. One Sunday in the summer of 1855 O. H. Bryant, one of the pioneers near Etna, purchased a fine span of horses and took them home. The next morning he hitched up his team, intending to drive over to a neighbor's on an errand. When he arrived at the ford he found that, owing to recent rains, the river had become a torrent. A number of friends tried to dissuade him from attempting to ford, but he, in confidence that his team could pull through, drove into the ford. He had driven but a short distance when the depth of the water compelled him to realize his folly. In attempting to turn around he capsized his wagon and was compelled to swim to shore, the horses being swept down by the irresistible current and drowned. The first store in Bloomfield was in a log cabin called a schoolhouse, about a half mile from Etna, kept by Reuben Odell. The goods were afterwards moved down, and in the course of a year sold out, when Hartley Parks erected a frame building in the village, and sold goods for about three years. The first settlers had to go to Decorah for all their goods. There was a marriage in 1856 between David Bender and Mrs. Russell Rexford. In June, 1856, there was a murder of an Irishman who had a claim and his body was thrown into the south branch. Some members of a half-breed family in the vicinity were arrested, but no convictions resulted. The first burial in the cemetery at Etna was Russell Rexford in 1856. In 1859 a Sunday school was organized in T. C. Baker's granary by Daniel Scoville, with Samuel Crooks as superintendent.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Bloomfield township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located. October 12, Ole Hellickson, 17-20; November 7, Ole Oleson, 21; November 10, Ambrose D. Carey, 21; November 10, Daniel Carey, 22-27; November 10, John Evans, 21-22; November 10, James Shaw, 34-26-27; November 23, John Boyden, 8; November 23, Esbon Merrill, 17; November 29, Mathias Hellickson, 21; November 29, Herbeon Olson, 27-21-22; December 10, John H. Miller, 9; December 21, Alonso Frink, 12.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows—the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first: March 22, Edward Owens, 10; March 27, Arthur L. Brown, 3; May 9, Purce Crane, 8; May 9, Israel Freeman, 7; May 9, Isaac Freeman, 18; May 9, Henry Green, 2; May 3, Andrew J. McKee, 9; June 12,

MR. AND MRS. OLE HELLICKSON

MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW W. HELLICKSON

Levi O. Hedges, 15; June 12, Simeon D. Lamb, 6; June 13, Henry Hendendorf, 10; June 15, Robert M. Hall, 17; June 16, William Truggs, 2-3-10; June 18, Lyman Fifield, 5; June 18, Stephen Ives, 4-5; June 21, John M. Slossan, 6; June 25, Job S. Strong, 4; July 9, Sterling Saylor, 6; July 15, William Pine, 2; June 21, Henry Cooper, 7; August 4, George S. Gold, 18; August 23, Henry M. Slater, 6; August 26, Oliver Rexford, 35-25-26; September 12, Samuel Davis, 10; September 12, George Fesler, 20; September 12, Anderson Pine, 1; September 19, Cutler Thompson, 5; September 24, Isaac D. Gaylord, 13; September 26, Charles H. French, 24; September 26, William B. French, 13; September 30, Crawford Kellogg, 8; September 30, Joseph R. Kellogg, 20; September 30, John Scovel, 14; October 15. George Brown, 18; October 15, Miron Conklin, 7; October 15, Peter S. DeGroodt, 15; October 15, Washington Lloyd, 9; October 18, Peter Oleson, 27-28; October 20, William L. Mack, 19; November 11, Henry Gundlich, 9; November 11, John Macklay, 11; November 14, Hans C. Galickson, 15; November 24, Lansing M. Ells, 29; December 2, James Ingram, 1; December 11, Benjamin Swasey, 25; December 11, Horace Wilson, 34; December 17, Thomas Haywood, 29; December 17, Martin V. Wilder, 28.

Political. The political meeting recorded here was held in October, 1857, before the regular state government went into effect. It was in George Craig's house, and commenced on Tuesday and held over until Wednesday at midnight before the election was decided. Mr. McNee was elected justice of the peace. On May 11, 1858, the first regular town meeting, to fully organize the town, was held at the same place. The town officers elected were: Supervisors, O. B. Bryant (chairman), John Mallory and Joseph Campbell; justices of the peace, M. T. Gaylord and W. T. Bly; clerk, S. A. Hunt; assessor, W. T. Bly; collector, R. C. McCord; overseer of the poor, John Carey; constables, A. C. McCord and Horatio French. Provision was made that the next annual town meeting be held at the house of Andrew Lanby, in section 15. In September a town meeting was held and a tax of $125 raised to meet current expenses.

Etna village was platted by Enos Gray as the surveyor and C. L. Colby as proprietor. Its location is the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 25, and was recorded as being "set apart and dedicated for village purposes" on September 18, 1867. The panic which followed the next month must have been a wet blanket to the cherished hopes and glowing anticipations, which had cut up a farm into lots, four rods by eight, to make a rural village. The village was laid out as "Tiffton," but as the postoffice was called Etna common usage obliged the villiage to adopt the same suggestive cognomen. The first postoffice

established for the convenience of the settlers of this region was one mile east of Spring Valley. John M. Smith was the postmaster. This was in 1855.

In the spring of 1856 the people in the neighborhood of Etna wanted a postoffice. One day there happened to be a half dozen persons at the house of Peter McCracken, and the subject coming up, the question as to a name was discussed and it was proposed to settle the point by lot, and each one wrote a name on a slip of paper. Mrs. McCracken drew from the hat, where they had been placed, the name "Etna," put there by Charles Hanson, of Forestville. A petition was accordingly started and signatures were obtained at a precinct meeting at the house of Lathrop Abbott, in the town of Beaver. But the name created opposition, which went so far that the opponents of the name got hold of the petition, cut off the original heading and substituted another name and deposited it in the nearest postoffice to be sent to Washington, but the friends of Etna, by threats, induced them to withdraw it and it was destroyed. Mr. Hanson, however, got up another and procured a few signatures and sent it on, with a favorable result. Bedar Judd was appointed postmaster and held the office about one year, O. B. Bryant then had the office for a year, when he was succeeded by H. French. The town plat when surveyed was named and recorded as Tiffton, but has always been called Etna. A. Postle was the last postmaster. Mail is now received from Ostrauder by rural delivery.

OSTRANDER VILLAGE.

Ostrander is a prosperous village in Bloomfield township, on the line of the Chicago Great Western. It has a Norwegian Lutheran Church, a school, a bank, a hotel, two elevators, a creamery, two general stores, implement store, restaurant, drug store, lumber yard, blacksmith shop, feed mill, a Woodman lodge, telephone service, a postoffice, and such other business and professional ventures as are common in a village of this size. The village was platted in 1890.

Early History. When the Winona & Southwestern was being built through the western part of Fillmore county it became evident that there would be a station somewhere between Spring Valley and Le Roy. Inducements were offered the company to choose the present site of Ostrander. William Ostrander gave the railroad a half interest in ten acres and a clear title to another five acres. Charles Ostrander gave a half interest in ten acres and a money bonus. H. M. Hellickson gave a half interest in ten acres.

The first building on the village site was the railroad station.

W. J. MEIGHEN AND FAMILY

Two elevators were immediately put up. The first store was started by Hans Hanson and L. E. Lundby, who came from Hurdal. Soon after this the McDermott store was started. McDermott sold a half interest to Nels Lewis. Six months later Nels Lewis became sole proprietor, and later sold to John Schonsby. The first residence on the village site was the house of Martin Johnson, which was moved from Herdal. C. Jacobson also moved his residence and blacksmith shop from Herdal Later he sold the shop to W. L. Moust, who still operates it.

The first house erected on the town site was built by H. C. Gullickson for Gust Rud, and was used as a hotel. The first residence built was that of Imbert Skarie.

In the meantime, before the line of the railroad had been decided upon, an attempt was made to start a village in Bennington township. A store was erected in 1888, but when it was discovered that the railroad would touch at Ostrander and not at Bennington, the latter village died a natural death. In 1892 Nelson Lewis moved the store to Ostrander. A store had also been started about two miles away by M. Kjolseth. This store was moved to the village and remodeled as a residence.

Several attempts have been made to incorporate Ostrander, but, owing to the hearty remonstrance, this has not been accomplished. In 1904 an especially strong effort was made to have the village incorporated. A petition was filed with the county commissioners, asking for this boon, but a remonstrance was also filed, and the commissioners decided that they were not justified in granting the petition, so the village and township still have a government in common.

Prominent Citizens. Among the men who have made Ostrander may be mentioned: H. C. Gullickson, H. O. Larson, Hans Hanson, Otto Hanson, W. L. Moust, S. O. Halling, Henry Timensen, Christ Nelson, Even Aune, L. G. Hanson, J. O. Jameson, L. E. Lundby and others.

BEAVER TOWNSHIP.

Beaver is the southwest corner town of the county. Iowa is on the south of the town, Mower county on the west, Bloomfield on the north and York on the east. It is emphatically a prairie town with an inclination to flatness that, in consequence of the want of drainage, is disposed to be rather wet, although there are many places where the tendency is toward rolling, but not sufficiently so to be hilly. Part of the land was at first covered with hazel brush, a few poplars, and in some places there were oak openings. The west part of the town is particularly well watered. Beaver creek comes down from section 6 in a south-

eastern direction to mingle its waters with the Upper Iowa in section 34. Spring creek arises not far from the center of the town and joins Beaver creek in section 33. Another little stream comes from Mower county and makes a confluence with the Beaver in section 17. There is quite a little pond in section 35, from which flows quite a stream at all times, but at some seasons it sinks into the ground to again reappear on its journey to the Upper Iowa. The soil in the east half of the township is usually a rich black muck with a clay subsoil which, in some places lays quite deep, and in other places there is a quick sand sub-stratum. The west half of the town, and along the southern line, the soil inclines to clay with a sand mixture. On sections 7 and 8 there was formerly a heavy grove, but most of the primitive timber has been removed. In the northeast part of the town, especially, there is a subsoil of limestone, the soil itself being a dark loam.

Early Settlement. This town being off from the regular emigrants' trail, was not settled quite so early as some of the others in the county. In 1854 H. E. Edmunds, a native of Connecticut, arrived from Wisconsin in May, and having the whole town to select from, took a good slice of territory from section 31. L. Abbott, of Canada, came here in August of that year, and his choice fell in section 1. Mr. Callahan, who was murdered two years afterwards, had his claim in section 8.

In 1855 there were quite a number of arrivals, and of these we mention: Oliver Welch reached here in May and concluded to make a home in section 34. Lester Bennett, in the fall of that year, planted himself in section 1, but a few years later transplanted himself to Iowa, and afterwards to Michigan. B. F. Holman, a native of New Hampshire, came in August, and his farm was in section 1. Jacob Leuthold secured a place in section 17, where he resided until 1860, and then went to Mantorville. Henry Huney, also from Switzerland, pre-empted a place in sections 17 and 20. In 1866 he went to Rochester. John Halver, of Norway, came over from Wisconsin June 24 and settled in section 21. Andrew Peters, of the same nationality, arrived from Wisconsin June 21 and he found an unoccupied place in section 21. Turkel Timmonson came from Wisconsin and his lot fell in section 16.

In 1856 there was also quite an immigration, and in this list were several who are here recorded: A. Boynton, of Maine, came here from Wisconsin, and his selection was from section 1. Joseph Earl took land in section 35, but in 1866 went to Michigan. James Sample, a Scotchman, came from Illinois and established his home in section 7. He was afterwards found dead in the road, with indications that he had been thrown from his horse. Peter Clynfelton drifted around here in the fall, he remained several

years and removed to Iowa. Peter Myer, on his arrival, staked out a claim in section 16, which he improved for six or seven years and then went to Mower county. Henry Houk took his farm from section 18, but sold out in seven or eight years and went to Mantorville. Jacob Bradly came here from New York and secured a farm in section 18, and afterwards went to the Pacific coast, and from thence home to Switzerland. Jacob Gullman, of the same nationality, took a place in section 7, and the next year, 1857, sold to a countryman of his, John Myer, who improved the land and enlisted in the army when the war broke out. On his return he sold out and went to Pine Island. Gullman took another claim in section 17. James Beaman came from New York and settled in section 15. In 1875 he went to Kansas. Of those who came in 1857 may be recorded:

John Boynton, of Maine, who had a place in section 2. He went to Iowa in 1866, and from there to Dakota. D. Brainard Griffin, of Vermont, came from Illinois, and his place was in section 15. He died in the service of his country during the Rebellion. Almon Griffin had a claim in section 16 and died during the war. E. D. Earle procured a farm in section 36, and he went to Kansas in 1879. Thomas Bogan came from Wisconsin and his land was on section 28. He died in 1878. Peter Glathart, of Ohio, was temporarily in section 32, but soon returned home. Hans Christianson, a native of Wisconsin, bought a place in section 5, but moved to section 16. John Balch stopped awhile in section 17, and then went to Iowa. Ole J. Hatlestad came and his land was in section 4, but he moved to section 5. James J. Hatlestad was from Wisconsin, and he got a farm in section 5. Christian Hanson, of Norway, came from Wisconsin, and his place was situated in section 4. In 1881 he removed to Clay county, Iowa. Elijah Gates located in section 16. Levi Gates, of New York, came from Illinois and settled in section 29, later moving to section 2.

In 1858 the rush of settlers seemed to be over, but of the few who came that year two or three will be mentioned; Nial Nicholas, a native of New York, came up from Iowa and settled on section 9. He died in 1879. James Shepard, also of New York, came from Illinois to section 10, and in 1866 went to Mower county. H. G. Stockham, from Wisconsin, bought the northwest quarter of section 25.

In 1859 David Burns and Ira Baldwin put in an appearance on sections 16 and 35 respectively.

Some Early Events. Lynden Christian, son of Andrew and Mary Peters, first breathed the air of this world in Beaver on January 6, 1856. Andrew, son of Turkel and Katie Timmonson, was introduced to the light of day in October, 1855, and he was

taken away in March, 1858. J. J. Hatlestad was married to Catharine Anderson in the fall of 1859. Christian Hanson married Mary Sample in the fall of 1859. In June, 1856, a man named Calahan, who had a claim on section 8, was murdered in his cabin and dragged to the creek, where his body was covered with willows. A man was arrested for the murder, but was not convicted. He, however, sold out and left the country. This is related as the first deliberate murder in the county. At an early day B. F. Holman went to feed his pigs, about eighty rods away one snow stormy evening, got bewildered and lost his way, but succeeded in reaching the house of L. Abbott, where he spent the night and returned home the next morning to find his family in a state of despair of ever seeing him again alive. The first blacksmith shop was started in 1857 by John Balch in section 17. He hammered away for a few years and then went away himself; and it is said that, discarding his leather apron he became a preacher. The first mass in town was said by Father Pendergast in 1859 at the house of John Bogan.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Beaver township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: September 11, Henry Edmonds, 31; October 12, Lathrop Abbott, 1; December 10, Oliver Welch, 34.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows: June 27, George W. Shimmar, 5-8; July 9, James Noble, 35; August 27, Relief B. Duncan, 31; August 29, Frederick Kords, 8; August 29, Edward Wimmer, 8; August 29, Christian Wise, 8-9; October 24, Jacob McKee, 32; November 1, James Wolf Prentis, 30; December 12, William Eevym, 33; December 12, William A. Langworthy, 33; December 19, Charles Barlow, 34.

Political. The regular institution of the town as an independent municipal subdivision of the county was on May 11, 1858, and the meeting was at the house of Andrew Peters in section 21. William Beaman had the honor of requesting the gentlemen to come to order and Dennis Meighen and Andrew Peters were judges of election. The result of the balloting was as follows: Supervisors, Peter N. Glathart (chairman), George W. Pillsbury and Andrew Peters; clerk, D. B. Griffin; assessor, John H. Bonesteel; collector, Jacob Leuthold; overseer of the poor, David S. Patten; constables, Norman Gates and Jacob Leuthold; justices of the peace, John H. Bonesteel and Elijah Gates; David S. Patten having declined to serve as overseer of the poor Toren Pasko was appointed in his stead.

Postoffices. A postoffice called Ettaville was established in

1858, with E. D. Earle as postmaster, and the office was opened at his place in section 36. The next year Ira Baldwin was appointed, and he retained the office until it was discontinued a few years later. It was on the mail route between Elliota and Austin and came through once a week each way. The postoffice in Alba was established in 1859 and it was called "Alba" because the name was "short, eastern and ancient," as pithily stated by Andrew Peters. Hurdal postoffice flourished for some years in section 16. The last postmaster was E. Nordby. When Ostrander was started most of the activities of Hurdal were moved to that place.

CHAPTER XXVII.

FORESTVILLE AND YORK.

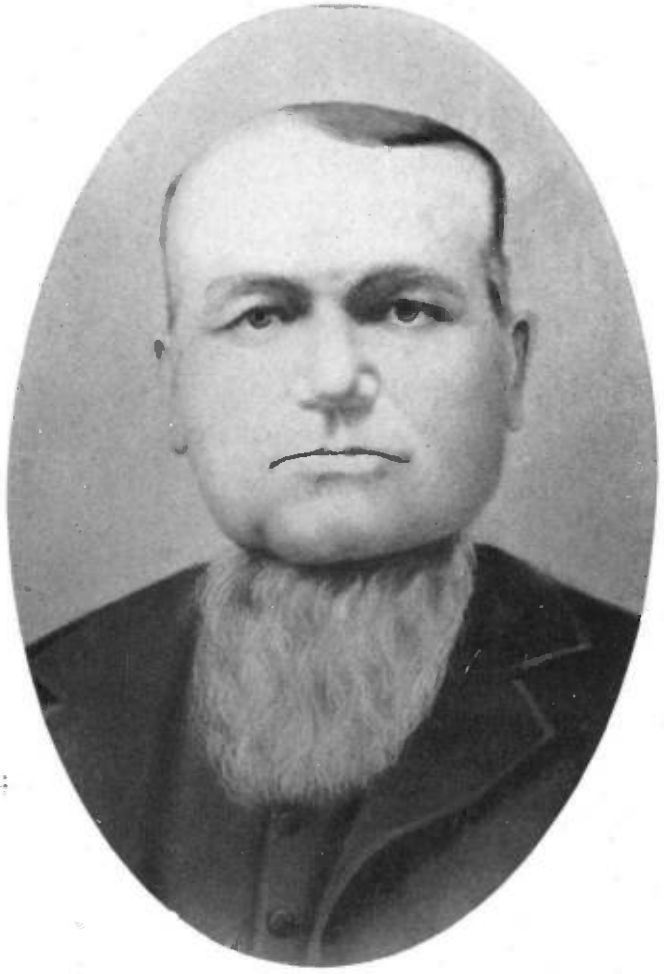
Forestville Township—First Settlers—Arrival of the Meighens and Fosters—Oldest Store in the County—Importance of Forestville Villages in the Early Days—Prominent Men—York Township—Early History—Hamlets of Greenleafton, Canfield, York and Cherry Grove.

Forestville Township is bounded on the north by Fillmore, on the east by Carimona, on the south by York and on the west by Bloomfield. It is a full congressional township, and in physical characteristics is not unlike the towns around it. The south branch of the Root river, so called, has in turn its north, middle and south branches, and the town is well watered.

The north and south branches have their source in this township. They are beautiful spring streams, flowing out from the bottoms of cliffs more than a hundred feet high. The north branch is said to be the finest natural trout stream in the state.

The township received its name from the many streams within its borders, especially along the streams near the village, which has now become quite a summer resort. The township contains more and better timber than any other town in the county, has more beautiful natural scenery than the other towns, contains larger and better apple orchards and produces more apples, possibly, than any other town in the state. This lead in apple production was due to the persistent efforts of the late Barnett Taylor, the pioneer horticulturist who settled in the village in the year 1856, and at once began to plant apple trees.

Early Settlement. The first settlers in this township were Levi Waterman and his brother-in-law, Joseph Bisby, natives of Pennsylvania, who came from Iowa in the fall of 1852, bringing their families, stock and household goods. Waterman settled in 12, while Bisby's claim was east of the Waterman claim, largely in Carimona township. Waterman sold out to Felix Meighen and Robert M. Foster, and after moving about a while, settled in Kansas and pre-empted what is now a part of the city of Wichita. He is now dead. Bisby remained, became a prominent citizen and ended his days here. The Watermans and the



MR. AND MRS. MAJOR FOSTER

Bisbys spent the winter of 1852-53 as the only settlers in the township.

In the summer of 1853 there arrived two men who were designed to be the real makers of Forestville. Robert M. Foster and Felix Meighen had known each other as boys in Pennsylvania. As a young man, Mr. Foster had moved to Steubenville, Ohio, and Mr. Meighen, who married Mr. Foster's sister, had located in Galena. After considerable correspondence, the two gentlemen decided to try their fortunes in a newer country. Consequently Mr. Foster came from Ohio to Galena, Ill., and after staying there a short time, started to the westward with Mr. Meighen. At Decorah, Ia., they heard of the lands to the northwest that were open to settlement. Continuing their journey they reached Elliota, and from there they traveled westward until they reached the fertile valley that is now the village of Forestville. After perfecting negotiations, Levi Waterman agreed to sell his claim. Mr. Meighen then returned to Galena, Ill., to serve out his term as deputy sheriff under his brother, William Meighen, who was then sheriff of Joe Daviess county, in which county the city of Galena was located. Mr. Foster remained, and in October, 1853, about forty rods north of the mouth of "Sugar Camp Hollow" he opened, in a double log building, the first store in Fillmore county, under the firm name of Foster & Meighen. Mr. Foster lived during the winter of 1853-1854 with the Waterman family, Samuel Riddle being also one of the boarders, Riddle having arrived in the early spring of 1854, and filed on a claim near the village. The Watermans also maintained a sort of a hotel for the convenience of travelers for about one year.

In 1854 the real influx of population began. Felix Meighen came back for a short time, bringing with him his brother, William Meighen, who also determined to cast his lot here. Later they again went back to Galena, but the following year came to make their homes here permanently, bringing their families.

Forestville Village. This hamlet boasts of the oldest store in the county, the first store which was opened in the county being still in operation here. The site of the village was staked out as a claim by Levi Waterman in 1852, was by him sold to Robert M. Foster and Felix Meighen in 1853, and was by them platted as a village in 1854. A store was opened by Foster & Meighen October 1, 1853, being in charge of Mr. Foster until the early part of 1855, when Mr. Meighen arrived with his family. In 1856 a brick store and residence were erected from the first brick made in the county. The store stock was moved into this brick store in 1857. The company continued as Foster & Meighen until 1868, when Mr. Foster withdrew. Thomas J. Meighen and a cousin, Dennis R. Meighen, then conducted the store in Felix

Meighen's name for four years, since which time the establishment has been in charge of Thomas J. Meighen. The house and store erected in 1856 are still standing.

In the meantime William Meighen arrived in Forestville in 1855 and began to take an active part in its destinies. He and Major J. Foster erected the Freemont House. Mr. Foster opened it in 1856, and Mr. Meighen began to deal extensively in real estate. In 1856 a steam sawmill was built and Forestville became not only the center of a large territory in this county, but also the stopping place of the pioneers bound for points west and north.

While the Meighens and Fosters were building up a village north of the river Henry Fitch had taken a claim south of the river in section 13, which in 1854 he sold to Forest Henry and William Renslow. They platted South Forestville and started a village. A grist mill was erected with Henry Spies as miller. A sawmill was also conducted in connection with this mill. Alvin West opened a hotel. Reuben Odell and later Gilbert Bassett opened stores. In 1856 a distillery was built, and conducted by Robert Douglas, Reuben Odell and others. The product, which was pure rye whiskey, was sold at retail at forty cents a gallon. The imposition of the high war tax on liquor and distilleries caused this plant to be closed during the first year of the Civil War. After the village was started business increased rapidly, many residences were erected, and the future of the community seemed assured. Only fertile fields, owned by Thomas J. Meighen, now mark the spot which was once the village of South Forestville.

The two Forestvilles flourished for a time. In 1880 there was a population of 100 people. During the war there were some four hundred persons living here. The best school in the county added to the attractiveness of the place and families flocked in from all the eastern states. It was soon believed that Forestville would be the metropolis of the county. But when the railroad which Forestville expected to get passed far north of the village, there was an exodus to Spring Valley and elsewhere, and although for a time the village held its own, it now consists merely of a store, the old Meighen home and a number of other buildings, which the owner, Thomas J. Meighen, still retains for various purposes.

Postoffice. This was established in 1855 with Forest Henry in charge. In a year or two R. M. Foster received the appointment, and served until 1869. Felix Meighen then served a number of years and was succeeded by his son, Thomas J. Meighen, who held the position until the office was discontinued. The patrons now receive their mail by rural routes from Preston and Wykoff.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Forestville township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows—the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: September 9, Forest Henry, 13; September 9, Alonso Renslow, 13; September 9, William Renslow, 13.

Those who obtained land in 1855 were as follows: January 16, John Galloway, 23; May 2, Abel Baldwin, 5; May 19, John E. Hosking, 22; August 27, Edward Trask, 23; August 27, Ezra R. Trask, 22-26-27; August 31, John Bower, 7-8; August 31, Leon Lefevere, 7-18; September 8, David Bender, 18; September 10, John H. Kirkendoll, 18; September 19, John H. Bonesteel, 21; September 19, Robert M. Foster, 12; September 27, John B. Hayles, 23; October 12, Major J. Foster, 12; October 12, Bedar Judd, 31; October 19, Jonathan P. Chapin, 6; November 3, Alexander Pine, 5-8; November 17, Charles Craling, 21-22; November 17, Almond Sage, 24; November 20, B. K. Ingalls, 29; November 30, John H. Varnel, 19-20; December 29, Harrison Pine, 23.

Prominent Men. Among the prominent men in Forestville township and village before the war, aside from those whose names appear elsewhere in the township and village history may be mentioned: Joel Watkins, John Long, Lionel C. Long, H. S. Bassett (who clerked in his father's store), Charles E. Evans, R. R. Sisson, John Bottom, S. H. Bateman, John Eulette, James Eulette, Frank Johnson, John C. Smith, Maj. D. E. Runals, Louis Eidam, J. L. Colby, Copeland Richardson, George Barr and sons, George, John and Lawrence, John N. Graling, Charles Graling, J. H. Bonesteel, D. K. Michener, J. L. Michener, A. B. Rejester, Levi Rexford, John E. Haskin, Charles Hanson, Holley Cook, Victor LeFevre and Leon LeFevre, Peter McCracken (who later moved to York township), Fred K. Baldwin and Henry C. Baldwin, Luther Rexford and Levi Rexford and others whose names are mentioned in the early claims to land.

Of these men it is interesting to note that Lionel C. Long moved to Nobles county and now lives in St. Paul. He became a prominent man, and in 1894 polled a large vote as populist candidate for congressman from the second district.

Alvin West was prominent in town affairs, and for twenty years held the combined offices of town clerk, assessor and treasurer, a thing never elsewhere heard of in Minnesota history.

Louis Eidam, Jr., met with a tragic death. After assisting in a frame raising on the farm of Joseph Bisby he and John C. Smith started home to the village. A severe thunder storm came up, but the men continued on their way. Smith stopped in a house for a moment to get a gun which he had left there and

Eidam continued on toward his home, watched by his wife from the front window. Suddenly there was a blinding flash of lightning which revealed him to his wife, and then a second flash which showed that he had disappeared. Investigation showed that he had been instantly killed. Mr. Smith's life had been saved by a trifling errand. The widow of Mr. Eidam afterward married Lionell C. Long and lives in St. Paul.

Various Events of Interest. In the fall of 1854 R. M. Foster was married to Elizabeth Renslow by H. S. H. Hayes. The first death of a citizen was that of Owen Riley in 1856 of a sudden case of enteric inflammation. The first child born was Emma Renslow in July, 1854. The first death in town was in the fall of 1853 when there died the child of a family passing through the town. The whole settlement turned out to the funeral.

YORK TOWNSHIP.

York was an original government township, and is second from the western line of the county on the southern tier, with Forestville on the north, Bristol on the east, Iowa on the south and Beaver on the west. It may be said to be a prairie town, although in some parts it is quite hilly, particularly in the northeastern and southeastern portions, where there are some quite abrupt bluffs. The soil is loam, varying from a light sandy to a dark clayey variety, with a large amount of moisture and usually a porous limestone foundation. Some of it, however, has a clay subsoil. There are no large water courses in town and the streams that do exist are peculiar, sometimes being a raging torrent and then coming down to be a little rivulet, to disappear altogether. There are numerous springs in various parts of the town. Unlike many other towns in the county, wells are easily sunk from ten to fifty feet, and an abundance of water procured. There is a stream that starts from a spring in section 35 and flows in an easterly direction, to leave the town near the southwest corner. Other streams come from toward the west, to be lost near the central portion. Another little creek cuts across the southwest corner, making for the Iowa river, and one also starts from section 15, to be joined by a branch or two in its course toward the Root river. In the western part of the town the land is inclined to be flat and to secure the best results the natural drainage should be stimulated by artificial methods. When the pioneers arrived there were some groves of fine timber, consisting of burr, red and white oak, which have disappeared, but there is a vigorous growth of wood now where was formerly scattering brush. The town has a good soil so

situated as to be most valuable for agricultural purposes, including tillage and stock raising.

Early Settlement. This town is reported as having been first settled in 1854. Knud Olson and Even Knudson, natives of Norway, came here from Iowa in that year in the month of August. Mr. Olson took his land in sections 24 and 25 and Mr. Knudson in sections 23 and 26. The same month Ole Kettleson, who had been stopping in Bristol, settled in section 3. Mr. Knudson lived on his farm until 1867, when he sold out and removed to Redwood county. Mr. Olson moved to section 14 and Mr. Kettleson to section 15.

In 1855 there were several arrivals, among them Peter McCracken, a native of Scotland, who came here from New York State, and placed his sign manual on some land in sections 3 and 10. He was a very prominent man, identified with the interests of the county and held various public offices. Ira Henderson, who was born in Erie county, New York, made a claim on section 4 June 4, the same day that Mr. McCracken did. A. S. Adams had a place in section 9. Osman Olson came here from Wisconsin, and claimed a farm in sections 15 and 16. Knud Anderson came in November and claimed the southeast quarter of section 11. Frank Olson, who had made a brief stay in Wisconsin, took a place in section 15. Joseph Betts came from Wisconsin and occupied the northeast quarter of section 15. Ole Tistleson, who afterwards moved to Iowa, located in section 25. Henry Shadwell, a native of England, settled on section 3, but moved to Otter Tail county. Halver Burgess, from Norway, came by way of Wisconsin and secured a farm in section 11. In 1861 he went to Dakota. Torge Torgeson, a Norwegian, came here from Iowa and was on section 34, and in 1859 went to California, dying there in 1863. John Thorson, of Norway, came here from Iowa and took a farm in section 24.

In 1856 there was quite a list of arrivals, among them should be recorded: David Ingalls, from Vermont, who had stopped a while in New York state as a pioneer there, surrounded a claim in section 4. William Boland, from Holland, found a home embracing the northeast corner of the town. L. Aslackson came here from Carimona and went on section 2, but moved to section 14. K. O. Wilson had lived a while in Wisconsin on his way from Norway and found a place that filled his idea of a farm in section 28. James Hipes, a native of Virginia, had a farm in section 35. In 1866 he sold his place and went to Carimona. Thomas Armstrong, of England, came in the spring from Granger and lived on section 35, but in 1869 sold out and went to Mitchell county. His brother, E. Armstrong, came from Canada and bought the north half of his brother's claim. Orville F. Mann,

a native of New York state, came from Michigan and settled on section 5. Robert Love, a Scotchman, came from Iowa and staked out a farm in section 14. He died in 1876. His son, now Mayor George A. Love, M. D., came with him. Oel Bacon, a native of Massachusetts, who had been sojourning in Wisconsin, secured a home in section 21.

During 1857 there was a large list of people coming to fill up this town, and many of them will be mentioned: Reuben Wells, one of the prominent men of the county, came here this year. He was born in Washington county, New York, November 17, 1802. His early life was spent in farming in Luzerne county in that state. He took 160 acres of land here, and at an early day, with a pocket compass, and by pacing off the distance, he would help the settler in finding the corner stakes. In 1863 he moved to Preston. John Boland, a Hollander, came from Wisconsin and established a home in section 1. Moses D. Gue, of New York, had his first place in section 33, but moved to section 32. Austin Tostenson, who came by the way of Wisconsin, located in section 26. Joseph Brown, who was from New York, coming by way of Wisconsin, found a home in section 17, and died in 1882 in Iowa. Widow Espy secured a place, which she soon sold, in section 31. Samuel Louden, a native of New York, located in section 29. Ole Arneson settled in section 34, coming here from Harmony. Simeon Hamblin, of New England, came here and died one week afterwards. His widow located in section 8. She died in 1874. A son, Samuel Hamblin, was also in section 8, but he lost his life in the service of his country. Lewis Conklin, of New York, came from Wisconsin to section 20. S. G. Canfield, also of New York, took a place in section 21. After 1857 the immigrants were more of a scattering character, but some of the most prominent men and valued citizens were among these later comers.

In 1858 there were a few settlers: Joseph Richards, of England, came from Canada and bought land in section 10. John Ellingson, who came by way of Wisconsin, settled in section 22. In 1860 J. R. Williams, from Wales, who had lived a while in Wisconsin, found a place in section 36. Owen D. Owens, of the same nationality, bought land in Bristol and lived with his sister, Mrs. J. J. Jones, who had secured a place in section 36.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in York township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows—the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: June 23, Dirk Alirk, 1.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows: January

11, Tistle Oleson, 23; January 22, Ole Kittelson, 3; January 22, Kanute Oleson, 24-25; January 22, Ole Tistle, 23; April 2, Evend Knutson, 26; April 12, Torger Torgerson, 34; June 23, William Boland, 1; June 23, Sjur Tevarsen, 26; July 3, Ole Tarrechen, 25; July 9, Ole Tarrechen, 24; July 8, Ira Henderson, 4; July 9. Abner S. Adams, 9; July 9, David Ingalls, 4; July 14, John N. Eulette, 21; July 23, Ole Tustison, 25; August 28, Philip F. McAuillian, 12; August 29, Julius N. Burton, 21; August 30, George Wightman, 21; September 18, Andrew Knudson, 11; September 19, George L. Butler, 10; September 19, Roger M. Butler, 10; October 8, Holivar Burgess, 2-10-11; October 10, John M. Reas, 4-5; October 10, Addison C. Sheldon, 5; October 10, Rolland F. Sheldon, 6; October 24, Ola Anderson, 27; October 24; James Hipes, 35; October 29, John Oteson, 35; November 17, Isaac W. Lucas, 12; November 20, Ole Bacon, 21; November 20, William F. Cate, 17-20-21; November 20, Andrew Weaver, 20; November 24, John W. Campbell, 22-28; November 24, Sayles R. Green, 22-27-28.

Political. The organization of the town was effected on May 11, 1858. The primal town meeting was at the house of Ole Bacon, in section 21. The first officers were: Supervisors, Reuben Wells (chairman), Halver Burgess and Benjamin Palmer; assessor, David Ingalls; collector, Abner S. Adams; clerk, S. G. Canfield; overseer of the poor, James Hipes; justices of the peace, Peter McCracken and Thomas Armstrong; constables, Henry Yarnes and Willard Lester; surveyor of roads, Andrew Weaver. The moderator of the meeting was Abner S. Adams and the clerk Reuben Wells. The administration of town affairs has left no opportunity for unfavorable comment, as the leading men have been entrusted with town matters, and the management has been devoid of extravagance on the one hand or parsimony on the other.

Postoffices. The first to be established in the town of York was in the fall of 1857. S. G. Canfield was the postmaster aud the office was in his house on the southwest quarter of section 21. In about one month it was removed. In March, 1882, Mrs. S. G. Canfield was appointed postmistress. William Plummer, who followed John Lund, was the last postmaster. The people now receive their mail from Lime Springs, Ia.

Various Events. An early marriage was that of Thomas Lewis and Elizabeth Brown, on December 24, 1857. The ceremony was performed by Peter McCracken, justice of the peace. Willard Lester and Mary Ingalls were united by the same magistrate on April 24, 1858. Rasmus Erickson and Ann Oleson, according to the record, were married on August 10, 1858. Charles Hanson and Letitia R. Ingalls were married on Novem-

ber 15, 1858. On June 6, 1857, Ira Henderson and Sarah P. Ingalls made an excursion from York to Forestville, and were married by Robert Foster. Tilda, daughter of Knudt and Julia Olson, was born March 2, 1855. The first blacksmith shop was opened by Osman Olson in 1855, on section 16. It was conducted for about eight years and closed up. An early death was Almond, son of Joseph Betts, in 1856 or 1857. He was buried on the farm on section 15, where the cemetery now is. Ole Sampson's wife died in July, 1857. On May 21, 1857, Simeon Hamblin died, and was buried in section 4, but his remains were afterwards removed to Forestville.

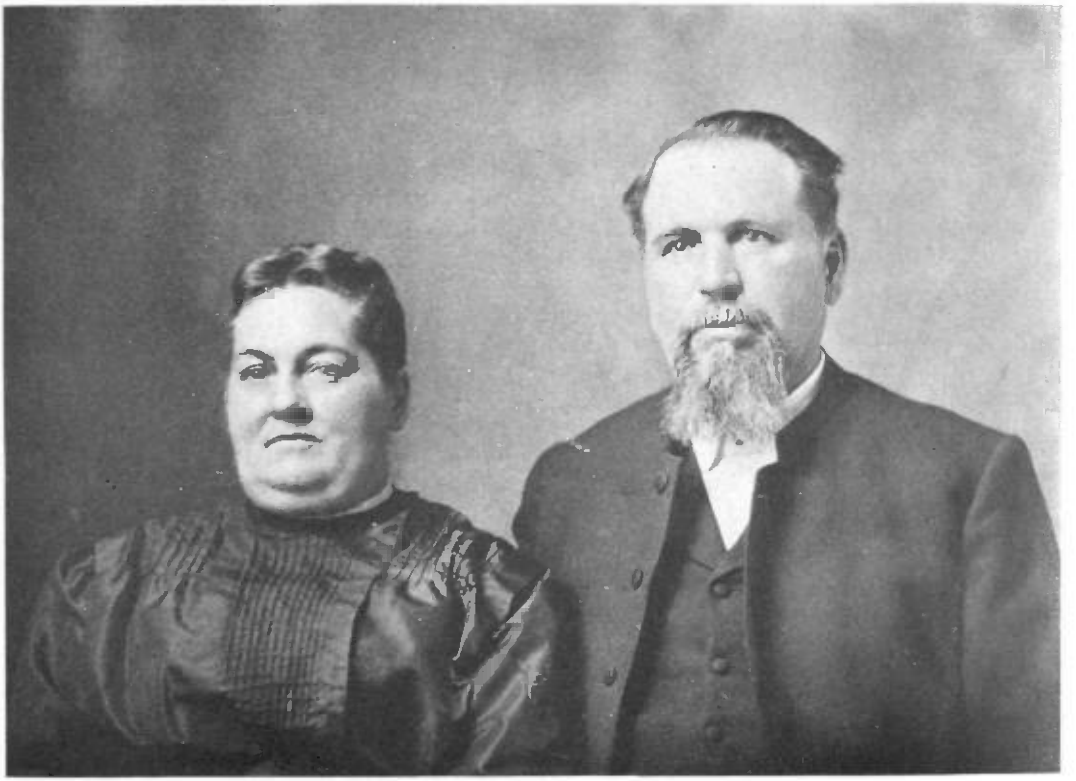
Greenleafton. This hamlet nestling down in the northeast corner of the town, was named in honor of Mary Greenleaf, of Philadelphia, who generously gave $3,500 to build the Dutch Reformed Church edifice.

The post-office at Greenleafton was established in June, 1874. J. Huetink was postmaster. The three most recent postmasters at the village have been G. A. Nagel, Bennie Benson and Benjamin F. Allink, the latter being in charge when the office was discontinued. The people now receive their mail by rural route from Preston.

Canfield. This is another embryotic village also known as York, on the line between sections 21 and 22. S. G. Canfield opened a store here in 1876, under the auspices of the local grange, and G. H. Sherwood joined him in 1878.

Cherry Grove. This is another of those villages made up of hopes unrealized, and expectations unfulfilled. Its location may be found in section 4. Its designation as a village was on account of its postoffice, which being gone the location continues as a remembrance, and the name will remain on the maps long after what usually distinguishes a village from the country has been obliterated.

The Cherry Grove post-office was located here in 1869, having been moved from Forestville township, a mile distant, and D. J. Ingalls was selected as postmaster. It was at his house, on section 4, until February, 1882, when it was returned to Forestville. This was not satisfactory to the people and the office was again established. C. Petenpole succeeded John Riddle as postmaster and was the last in charge, the people now receiving their mail by rural route from Ostrander.



MR. AND MRS. DARIUS BROADWATER

CHAPTER XXVIII.

CARIMONA AND BRISTOL.

Carimona Township—Early Days—Carimona Village and Its Blasted Hopes—Waukokee Village—Bristol Township—Land Office Records — Postoffices — Granger Village — Its Early History.

Carimona Township is bounded on the north by Fountain, on the east by Preston, on the south by Bristol, and on the west by Forestville. Its form and size is identical with the original United States survey. The surface is rolling, and the soil on the higher portions is a clay loam from six to ten inches deep, with a yellow clay subsoil, and on the low lands the soil is a black loam from eighteen to twenty-four inches deep, with a blue clay subsoil. The south branch of Root river flows across the town from section 18 in quite a direct channel to section 1, where it leaves for Preston. Willow creek comes from Bristol and flows through the eastern tier of sections to join the south branch in section 1. There are also numerous springs to assist in watering the town. The northern and eastern parts are particularly adapted to stock raising, while the central, south and southwestern sections are well adapted to tillage.

Early Settlement. The summer or fall of 1852 is supposed to be the time of the first entry of the vanguard of civilization which so rapidly encompassed this whole region. Edwin, Joseph and W. C. Pickett, with their father, David, natives of New York, came here from Indiana. Martin Kingsbury and brothers, also from New York, came direct from there, and the same year Sylvester Benson, another New Yorker, and William Carpenter, with J. Howel, who located in this town. Some of them came with teams drawn by oxen, in which they encamped until a log cabin could be put up, which was 14x16 feet.

The earliest settlement in town, outside of the village, was that of Martin Kingsbury and brothers, William Carpenter and Sylvester Benson, who came in the spring of 1853, and camped on Willow creek, in section 25. William Wilbur bought one of their claims afterwards. John B. Palmer arrived in the fall of 1853, and secured a claim.

In 1854, George and A. P. Day, natives of New York, Christo-

pher Fritzsommers, a native of Ireland, Samuel R. Ayer, of Canada, Peter Young and Martin Young, of New York, and others came in. W. H. Strong, who arrived in the spring of 1854, at once became a prominent citizen and built a hotel the next year, which did an immense business. William Chalfant came at the same time. The Picketts had two younger brothers, Philo and Alonzo, and their father, as already mentioned, who afterwards died. William Sitler was here a short time and then returned to Pennsylvania. William Holton came as a lad about the same period. Aikin Miner came in the fall of 1853 and settled on section 24. In the fall of 1854 he moved to Jorden, in this county.

In 1855, J. W. Brockett came here and engaged in trade, but did not remain long. W. H. Roberts was a settler this year in the village. Jacob Diley was another, who came about this time. Robert Broadwater and family also arrived this year. George Babcock and Ebenezer Newcomb, from New England, are also remembered as comers this year. This village was on the great stage route, and when navigation on the river closed there were regular lines of stages, the most prominent of which was M. O. Walker's.

Abraham Rexford came from Loraine county, Ohio, in 1856, and settled on section 23. His wife, Susan, who came with him, is now in her eighty-third year and lives with her son, Samuel, on the original homestead.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Carimona township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located. August 17, Martin Kingsbury, 23; August 17, Robert S. Warren, 23; August 17, William Reynolds, 13; August 24, Daniel Hurlbut, 24; September 5, Joseph Pickett, 5; September 5, William C. Pickett, 4; September 8, Martin Henderson, 10; September 8, Edwin Pickett, 4; September 9, John Ingbrightsen, 18; November 1, Sylvester Benson, 25.

Those who secured land in 1855 were as follows: March 24, Philo F. Pickett, 3; March 31, George H. Fremire, 25; March 31, William Hurlbut, 26; March 31, Esekiel Thomas, 24; April 12, George Drury, 26; April 12, John Jubb, 26; April 17, Joseph W. Brockett, 9; April 18, James M. Munday, 1; May 22, George W. Horton, 35; June 4, George P. Babcock, 10; June 4, Joseph R. Colburn, 25; June 4, Everett E. Newcomb, 2-11; June 14, Everett E. Newcomb, 3; June 27, John W. Jones, 8-9; July 7, David Pickett, 4; July 27, Alexander Wight, 3; August 8, Patrick Agan, 3; August 10, Joseph Bisby, 7; August 11, Joseph Bisby, 7; August 20, Benjamin Philbrick, 5; August 23, John M. West, 25;

August 24, Alexander Holton, 10; August 24, David Holton, 9; August 25, Joseph W. Crees, 11; August 25, George L. Day, 2-11; September 5, Whitman S. Ford, 22-27; September 25, Henry A. Lewis, 13; October 12, William Meighen, 18; October 17, Lorenso Luce, 25; October 17, Joseph Stevens, 24-25; November 24, Martin Regenold, 15; November 24, Alfred Ward, 14-15; December 29, Martin Mulroy, 2-3.

Early Events. In 1856 Wm. Rendals took a claim in section 31 and engaged in business in section 24, in Buffalo Grove. In 1858 Mr. and Mrs. Rendals both died of typhoid fever, and a supposed partner in the business in which they were engaged, which was the manufacture of coin, came up from Iowa and secured the machinery, molds and a certain amount of fifty and twenty-five cent pieces. For the convenience of the mill an ostensible blacksmith shop was erected, and in this place the counterfeiting was carried on, but how extensively will never be known, as, if any of the spurious coin was passed, it was taken into a neighboring state and never issued near home. It is said that a case was being tried before a justice in town at one time, and the magistrate was found to be fast asleep when J. R. Jones, one of the attorneys, adjourned the case until the court should awake. Orissa C. Kingsbury, a daughter of Martin and Caroline Kingsbury, was born June 19, 1854. In the spring of 1856 John Warner and Lizzie Rendals were united in marriage by Rev. John L. Dyer, at the residence of the bride's parents. In the spring of 1855, John Woolsley died of overheat while at work. At the time of the Indian panic, about September 1, 1862, E. McGowan suddenly started off with the rest of the people for Preston, leaving his pocket book, containing $800 in cash, and on his return he found that some one had taken care of it so effectually that he never saw it again.

Township Organization. The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858. The officers of the election were: Chairman H. R. Wells; clerk, J. T. Nickerson; judges, Samuel Hull, Abraham Anderson and W. T. Little. The officers elected were: Supervisors, William H. Strong (chairman), J. H. Kegan and Daniel Garrison; justices of the peace, E. Pickett, J. W. Brackett and W. H. Wilbur; clerk, Abram Kalder; assessor, S. R. Ellis; constable, B. B. Strong; collector, B. B. Strong; overseers of the poor, W. C. Pickett and Joseph Bisbey. The first meeting of the board of supervisors was on May 28, when the road business received attention, the districts having been at that meeting designated and the overseers appointed.

In the War of the Rebellion. It is said that almost every able bodied man in town enlisted to serve their country in its hour of peril, and that the Union sentiment was well nigh universal.

The Indian Scare. On that terrible occasion the panic in town was almost universal. The fighting material being away at the front, those that were at home felt that they were at the mercy of the bloodthirsty savages, and every soul left, as is reported, for Preston, to escape impending destruction.

Carimona Village. The location of this historic spot is on the south branch of the Root river, on the southern line of section 4. It was first indicated as a village in 1853, but was not platted until the following spring. Edwin and William C. Pickett were the proprietors. Carimona being one of the four center towns of the county, it was judged that if a village could be created there, that it would be an object for the county to establish it as a county seat, and the idea was reinforced by the subsequent action of the voters.

In the summer of 1854 William H. Strong built a two-story frame building, the lower part he used as a dry goods and grocery store and the upper part for a residence. In 1855 he built a two and one-half story hotel, and occupied it as such for a year or so, until he built the brick building, the second story of which was intended for county purposes. This building is still standing.

In 1854 or 1855 William Fairbanks opened a blacksmith shop which had been built by E. & J. Pickett.

In 1856 Gilbert & Pickett started a hardware and tinsmith shop. A shoe shop was opened in 1857 by William Taft. D. Holton built a wheelwright shop in 1858, and it was occupied by Mr. Chamberlain.

Some time in 1857 William Holton opened a sample room in Mr. Taft's building, and different parties engaged in the business up to the year 1864, when it was closed out.

Postoffice. In 1854 a post-office was established in the village with William C. Pickett as postmaster, and he was succeeded by the following gentlemen: William H. Strong, E. T. Nelson, J. M. Howe, A. King, and William K. Read. The last postmaster was O. L. King. Mail is now received by rural route from Preston.

Waukokee Village. This is a locality on section 25 in the Willow creek valley, and the land was at first pre-empted by Daniel Hulburt and others. The name was derived from an Indian chief, who used to have a fishing and hunting camp at this place. Milton West built the first house, in 1853, and opened a small grocery store, and in 1857 there were seven houses in the village, and a post-office was established, with Mr. West as postmaster, but he was soon succeeded by Mr. Wilbur. In 1868 the office was discontinued and about that time B. Larkins opened a dry goods store, which was soon transferred to Joseph Colburn, but the business did not continue for a great length of time. As

early as 1855, Martin Kingsbury organized a Sunday-school in the house of Sylvester Benson. On October 7, 1855, Rev. John L. Dyer preached the first sermon, as is supposed, in the Willow creek valley. His well remembered text was, "I Am hath sent me unto you." On January 27, 1856, Mr. Dyer organized a Methodist Episcopal society with six members. Services were held from time to time in the schoolhouse. The village now exists only as a recollection. Oren West built a hotel in Waukokee in an early day. He and his wife died on their first location in section 25.

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP.

Bristol was an original government township, and is one of the southern row of towns bordering on Iowa, and is the fourth from Houston county on the east, and third from the western boundary. It is contiguous to Carimona, Harmony, York and Iowa state, on the north, east, west and south, respectively. On the margin of the upper Iowa river, which impinges upon the southern part of the town, there is considerable bottom land, and back of this it becomes more broken and hilly. At first along the river there was a fine growth of timber. Back from the river is Bristol prairie with its rich dark loam. At the west of this prairie is Bristol grove, or "Verpe" grove as the Norwegians call it. The land in the northern and eastern part is somewhat uneven. The south branch of Willow creek arises from the north center of the town, and flows east and north into the town of Carimona. The middle branch of Root river is another stream with like characteristics. In the northern part of the town there were some fine groves of timber at an early day, but most of it has fallen before the woodman's ax, while new woods are springing up in the vicinity. In the southeastern part, where the first claim was laid, there was at first some fine timber land.

Early Settlement. The first claim known to have been made in Bristol was in the fall of 1852 by Samuel Drake, in section 36.

In July, 1853, M. C. and L. G. St. John, the first actual settlers, put in a personal appearance and bought Mr. Drake's claim, which was timber. M. C. located in section 36 and his brother, L. G., in section 35. These young men were natives of New York, but had been living for eight or nine years in Wisconsin, from whence they came here. William A. Nelson, another young man, was along at the same time, and he selected a quarter in sections 34 and 35, which he afterwards sold to Granger & Lewis as a part of Granger village. Mr. Drake was from Iowa, and did not remain. During the same year D.

Crowell, a native of Boston, came up from Illinois, and he staked out a farm in section 32. It is thought that there were no more settlers that year.

During the year 1854 there were quite a number of acquisitions, among them James Springsteel, a native of the Buckeye state, arrived from Illinois and took his land in section 33. Torger Tollefson and Ole Flatastal came from Wisconsin and secured farms in sections 1 and 11. Thomas Drury and Charles Bellingham, Englishmen, located in sections 3 and 11. Mr. Bellingham moved to Lyon county in 1871, and in 1878 Mr. Drury died. With them came two other English families. Ole Skrabeck and Gunder Jurgenson settled on sections 1 and 12. Knut Halverson Verpe claimed large tracts in sections 18 and 20 and lived on a tract in section 17 until he sold his home in 1870. On June 7, 1878, he died at the residence of H. Halverson at the age of ninety-five years. Samuel Bowden, from England, who had been living in Wisconsin, secured a homestead in section 1, where he surrendered his life in 1862. William B. Hutchison, James Springsteel and George Drury also came this year.

The year 1855 brought quite a number. John Rice, a Canadian, came here direct from Michigan and planted a homestead in section 13. O. Chase, from Ohio, stopped a short time in section 25. N. Boice came from New York State to section 25 and remained a few years. Thomas Armstrong, also from New York, secured a claim in section 34, which, the next year, he disposed of to Jason Damon. John and R. Sims came from England and procured farms in sections 29 and 32.

Edward Burnham, a native of Franklin county, Massachusetts, arrived here on June 9, 1856, and selected land in sections 14 and 23. Henry Mark came from Pennsylvania and his place was in section 11, but he went to Guthrie county, Iowa. Halver Halverson found a stopping place in section 18. In 1857, while attempting to cross the Root river in a boat, he lost his life. In 1856, a few other settlers arrived. Henry Achatz, a Prussian, found a resting place in section 24. Orson Thacher, of the Green Mountain state, made a sojourn on section 2 until 1871, when he died. William McGowen, from Scotland, settled on a place in section 13. Isaac Campbell was on section 33 and Widow Myers on section 34. W. E. Adams and Michael O'Conner also came this year.

John Black, a native of Scotland, came in 1857, from Wisconsin, where he had been living, and found a place that met his requirements in section 30, where he lived and wrought up to the time of his death, May 1, 1874. James Arnst came with Mr. Black, and from that time the filling-up process was rapid.

MR. AND MRS. D. B. OGG AND FAMILY

The story of the Holland and Bretheren settlements is told elsewhere.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Bristol township were issued by the government in 1855. The one who obtained land that year was as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: November 30, Nelson Boyer, 13.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows: February 9, Robert Burnap, 1-2; March 3, William A. Nelson, 34-35; March 3, Libeus G. St. John, 35; March 3, James Springsteel, 33-34; April 17, Thomas Drury, 3; June 13, Michael O'Connor, 3; June 18, Orson Thatcher, 2; June 23, Isaac Farnworth, 4; June 23, Nathaniel Ogg, 7; June 23, Peter Zebaugh, 7; July 2, William K. Cutter, 17; July 8, Connor Carroll, 6; July 10, Ole Oleson, 1-2-18; July 23, Johanes Knudson, 18-19; July 28, Joel Califf, 6; July 30, William E. Adams, 35; July 31, Betsy Long, 11; August 4, Tallman Whipple, 7; August 7, James Thorpe, Jr., 7; September 15, Andrew J. Whitney, 8; October 1, Anond Oleson, 19-20; October 2, Olciabiades Whittier, 22-23; October 3, Benjamin F. Brown, 22; November 7, Ole Oleson, 11; November 13, Thaddeus P. Chase, 15; November 14, Joseph Kinney, 25; November 18, Janson Damon, Jr., 34; December 3, Joseph Ogg, 5-6; December 9, Charles Bellingham, 10-11; December 13, Levi C. Howard, 28; December 13, George K. Sabine, 20-29.

Early Events. Emma and Effie Rice, twin daughters of John and Matilda Rice, were born April 18, 1856. Effie died in infancy, Emma married M. N. Bradley. Charlie Vail, son of John Vail, was born on May 31, 1855. The very earliest birth must have been Rose, daughter of L. G. and Annie St. John, in September, 1853. Aaron Ludden and Sarah Nelson were united in marriage in August, 1854, by Elder Bly. In 1855, by the same gentleman, John McQuary and Catharine Nelson were married. George Drury and Catharine Phfremmer were married in July 1858. Samuel R. Thacher and Mehitable D. Page, in January, 1859.

Political. The organization of the town which, while under a territorial form of government was merely a part of a voting precinct, took place May 11, 1858, when the first town meeting was held at the house of J. P. Howe. The town officers elected were: Supervisors, M. C. St. John (chairman) and George Horton; J. J. Jones was subsequently appointed to fill the vacancy; town clerk, Charles Lewis; assessor, Charles Roberts; collector, Daniel Thacher; constable, L. G. St. John; justices of the peace, George Knox and M. C. St. John; overseer of the poor, E. Burnham. The judges at this election were William E. Adams, J. P.

Howe and J. J. Jones. The clerks were David Sceley and H. L. Vosburg. The first tax levied was $650.

Postoffices. The first postoffice in town was established in 1855, and was named Alxbridge. Daniel Crowell was postmaster and mail carrier, going to Elliota, twelve miles, once a week. The office was at his house in section 32. In 1857 it went to Granger. **Vailville postoffice** was established late in the fifties on the southeast quarter of section 15. T. P. Chase was the first to handle the mail key, then Alanson Andrews, who moved the office to his house in section 24. He kept it for about three years when he was superceded by Edwin Teel, who moved the office to his house on the northeast quarter of section 21, and it was called "Bristol Centre." Sometime in the middle of the sixties it was discontinued and the citizens procured their mail matter from the most convenient office for the several parts of the town. In October, 1876, a postoffice for the town was established with Owen R. Morris as postmaster, and it was opened at his residence in section 8. **Bristol postoffice** also flourished for a while, James Berning being the last postmaster. For a while after the office was discontinued the patrons received their mail from Greenleafton, but they are now served by rural route from Preston. **Prairie Queen postoffice** flourished for a number of years in section 4. E. N. W. Shook was the last postmaster. The patrons now receive their mail by rural route from Preston.

GRANGER VILLAGE.

Granger is a hamlet in the southern part of Bristol township. While not enjoying the benefits of a railroad it is a flourishing trading place, and has the business and professional activities usually found at such points. Florenceville, which is really a part of Granger, is just over the line in Iowa.

Early History. The village of Granger was surveyed in 1857 by Brown L. Granger and C. H. Lewis, both being engineers, and the former a graduate of West Point. They came from Boston and were agents for a firm of capitalists under the name of Burgess & Greenleaf. The plat contained all but eighty acres of section 34, and eighty acres were in section 35. It was divided into 166 lots, 50 by 100 feet, except those made fractional by the Upper Iowa river, that sweeps up into the village. The streets are from 60 to 80 feet wide, and the alleys 12 feet, and the whole village was laid out in accordance with metropolitan ideas. Granger & Lewis opened a store and a postoffice was established. The same firm began the erection of a flourishing flouring mill of stone, but when nearly completed the west end fell out. Discouragement settled on the project and there it stood until

1864, when W. H. Wayman took it in hand, and during the winter got it in operation. The material for the building was taken from a quarry near by. In the fall of 1857 Ed. Slawson opened a hotel and kept it for about four years; then, for a time, there was no public house here, but in 1865 Dr. Lewis Reynolds built the State Line House and sold it to H. Slawson, who, in 1870, transferred it to S. Brightman. Dr. Reynolds was the first resident physician. A distillery was started by Mr. Wyman in 1865 in a building 32x80 feet, but in a few months it was closed by the internal revenue officers. He also started a vinegar factory. In 1859 Hiram Beebe started a blacksmith shop. In a few years he sold to S. Van Loan, who continued it but a short time. In 1864 John Finckh started a blacksmith shop. In 1865 John Hebeg opened a wagon shop. Haskins & Halstad introduced a drug store in 1870, but in a year or two it was closed. In 1872 Dr. D. J. Lathrop opened a drug store.

CHAPTER XXIX.

NORWAY AND PREBLE.

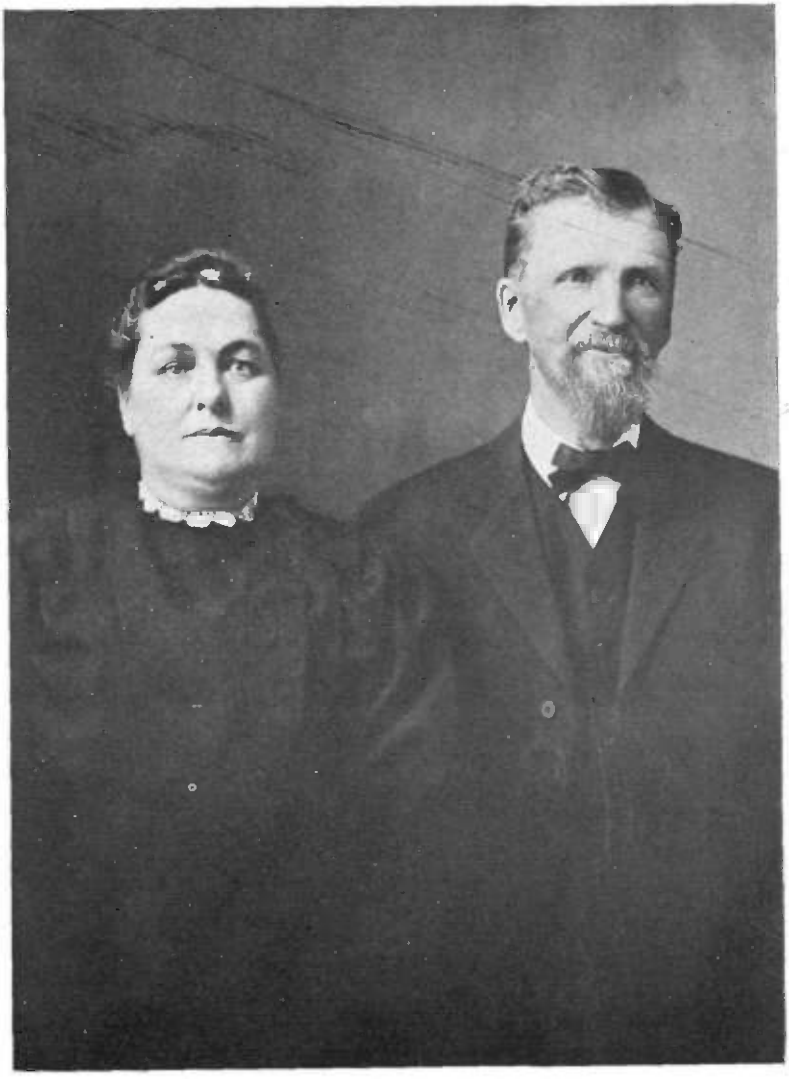
Norway Township—Names of the Sturdy Norsemen Who Settled Here—Events of the Early Days—Preble Township—Early Settlement Written by William Willford—The Indians—Political History—Postoffices.

Norway Township is the second township south of the northern county boundary, with Rushford between, and next to the eastern boundary, with Preble on the south and Holt, with which it was formerly associated, on the west. The town is quite well elevated and the small streams that arise within its borders run off in various directions. There is very little land in its territory that is incapable of cultivation and it is very well settled, mostly with immigrants from Norway, who are thrifty and industrious.

Early Settlement. In March, 1854, John Olson Overland and his three sons, Ole, Steiner and Knud, and a brother-in-law, Halver Erickson, with Harold Olson and Hans Franson, came to this township from Winneshiek county, Iowa, selected claims and provided for their families by putting up a residence 14x18 feet, then went for their families, and returned May 18.

Hans Franson procured a place in section 15, where he lived up to the year 1881, when he moved to the Red River country. Ole Johnson Overland was born in Norway September 20, 1823, and served three years in the army during the war against Prussia. In 1851 came to Walworth county, Wisconsin, with his father, mother, two brothers and four sisters. Two years later the party moved to Winneshiek county and, as above stated, came to Fillmore county.

The year before this Ole Johnson and Halver Erickson were through this region looking for lands upon which to locate. They were through the town of Rushford and found two colonists in the valley, Halver Goodrich and Ole O. Tuff. They passed by the place where they finally settled and, finding no water, concluded that it was not a desirable place to attempt to live, but on their second visit, as above mentioned, in 1854, a little digging developed a spring in section 15, and from this supply for the whole party was obtained during the first summer. There was quite a camp the very first season, as many as sixty persons in the colony, the most desirable and fashionable residence being



MR. AND MRS. J. W. BROADWATER

a covered wagon. The Indians were still around and would sometimes crowd into any shelter they could find during a shower.

Ole Johnson himself took a claim in sections 15, 16, 21 and 22. He had been married in 1850 to Gunill Franson. He was one of the first supervisors of the town when it also embraced Holt under the name of Douglass, and was also one of the officers of his town after it was divided. He was one of the first trustees of the Highland Prairie Church, and one of the building committee. Halver Erickson was born in Norway in November, 1829. In 1850 he came to Wisconsin, and to Iowa in 1853, and here the following spring, driving his stakes in section 15, where he still remains. In the autumn of 1854 he was united in marriage with Caroline Johnson. He was one of the early town officers. Knud Johnson was born in Norway in 1834 and came with others and took a claim in section 16.

Ole Kettleson came from Norway by the way of Walworth county, Wisconsin, and secured a local habitation in section 7. Ole Carlson Rue began his career in Norway on February 16, 1838. In 1851, with his father, he came to Walworth county, Wisconsin. In 1854 they came here and the father secured a home in section 20. The young man, in 1860, married Kari Kettleson and took a homestead on the same section. Peder Erickson Helgeland located in section 32. In 1854 Knud N. Melve and his father came and took land in section 31. Ole C. Berg came at the same time and died in 1869. Hans Gunderson was born August 9, 1820, came to Wisconsin in 1852, and in 1854 came to Norway, the namesake of his native country, and secured of his adopted government 160 acres in section 18. On January 23 he married Este Johnson. Ole Arneson Grinland was born in November, 1817. In 1851 he transferred himself and family to Wisconsin, and in 1854 to the Minnesota Norway, and secured 160 acres in section 11. Ole Jorgenson, a Norwegian sailor, came to this place in 1854 and settled in section 14, but afterwards removed to sections 23 and 24. John Sanderson came from Wisconsin in 1854. He died in April, 1873. Hagan Olson was from Norway and came to Wisconsin in 1848 and here in 1854. Kittel Olson was an early arrival in 1854 and took a place in section 21, but removed to Becker county early in the seventies.

Thomas Thompson came with his father in 1855, having stopped a while in Illinois. He secured 120 acres in sections 20 and 19. The old gentleman bought land in the town of Holt, but lived with his son, and must have been one of the oldest men in the county at the time of his death at the age of ninety-four years. Simon Thompson came to Dane county in 1852 from his native Norway, and in 1854 to Iowa, and here in 1855, taking a place in section 7 and remained until August 23, 1881, when

he died. Aslack Gunderson arrived in this township in 1855 and secured a stopping place in section 12, where he remained until 1881, when he went to Dakota.

Ole Olson Thorud was among the comers of 1856. He married Mary Thompson and secured a farm in section 7. Lars L. Humble was among the settlers of 1857 and his local habitation was in section 13. In 1846 he was married to Catharine Jenson, who died early in the decade of 1870, leaving eleven children. John L. Jahr was one of the arrivals in 1857 and the next spring bought a farm in sections 14 and 23. He was a leading man and was in the state legislature, but died on May 28, 1880. In 1857 Even Ellertson, with his sons, Isaac, Elling and Nels, came and took farms in section 11. Mikkel Kittelson came by the way of Wisconsin and placed himself upon section 23. Even Gisleson located in sections 11 and 14. John Larson Stensgaard secured a claim and lived in section 24. He died in 1878. C. Olson and Ole Jacobson settled in section 23.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Norway township were issued by the government in 1855. The one who obtained land that year was as follows—the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: August 30, John Sanderson, 2.

Those who obtained land in 1856 were as follows: January 15, Tovel Oleson, 11; March 2, Lars Estenson, 13; March 28, Tom Tounson, 6; May 6, John Oleson, 28-33; May 21, Isaac Evens, 3-4-9-10; May 30, Ole Jorgensen, 24; May 30, Wilhelm Oleson, 14; June 2, Jens Larson, 3; June 13, Austin Evenson, 3; June 13, Jeremiah Griffith, 18; June 13, Oliver Hansen, 8; June 20, Knud Johnson, 4-9; June 20, Michael Kittelson, 34-35; June 21, Gunnell Swenson, 28; July 8, Andrew Nelson, 30; July 9, Ole G. Berge, 31; July 9, Knud Nelson (Melve), 31-32; July 26, Halvor Halvorsen, 22; July 26, Halvor Swendson, 14; August 15, Kneut Tollefson, 18-19; August 27, William L. Brown, 30; September 22, Lars Halverson, 19-30; September 23, John Jacobson, 30; December 2, Jens Larson, 3.

Early Events. The oldest house is said to be that of John Olson, which was built in April, 1854, in section 16. The first resident minister was the Rev. N. E. Jensen. The first religious service was held by Rev. Mr. Koren in 1855. The first schoolhouse was in District No. 13. The first school teacher was Hannah Onstine. The first child was Ole Gunderson, on August 26, 1854.

The first marriage of Norway residents was performed in Iowa. The parties were Halver Erickson and Kari Olson.

Political. This town was a part of Douglas from May 11,

1858, until April 3, 1860, when a separate organization was effected. An early history of Douglas will be found in the sketch of the township of Holt, to which the reader is referred. The first town meeting was at the house of Even Ellerston on April 3, 1860. The following officers were elected: Supervisors, Ole Johnson (chairman), John Larson and Ole Jorgenson; clerk, A. S. Byholt; assessor, Simon Thompson; justices of the peace, A. S. Byholt and E. Evenson; constables, Ole H. Wentoel and K. Kittelson-Stockland; treasurer, N. E. Ellertson; superintendent of schools, Andreas Byholt. The name of the town is said to have been suggested by John Semmen in honor of the native country of almost every inhabitant of the township. The town hall is located in section 15.

Postoffice. Ole Johnson persuaded the postmaster general in 1860 that the great need of this section was a postoffice, and so a commission was duly forwarded to him. Becoming weary of the onerous duties of the position, he transferred it to Halver Jensen, who kept it at his brother's, Rev. N. E. Jensen, for a time, in a shanty about one-half mile north. Afterwards it was taken to the store at Bratsberg and Ole Hendrickson was postmaster. When the store changed hands O. E. Evenson became postmaster. E. J. Overland was the last postmaster, the patrons now receiving their mail by rural route from Rushford. Rud postoffice flourished for a while. The last postmaster was S. Sjervem. The people now receive their mail by rural route from Whalan.

PREBLE TOWNSHIP.

Preble Township is the second on the eastern boundary of the county from the Iowa line on the south. It has Norway as a neighbor on the north, Black Hammer, in Houston county, on the east, Newburg on the south and Canton on the west, and is identical with a town of government survey. Nearly the whole area of the south half of the town is gentle, rolling prairie, with occasional small clumps of timber. Some of the most beautiful farms imaginable are situated in this section of the town. The south fork of the Root river comes in by two branches into the southwest part of the township, and following its winding way, after uniting in an average northeast course, makes its exit from that corner. In its course several small branches are received. Along this little river is the valley, which varies in width from

one-fourth to one-half a mile. The timber along the bluffs is quite plenty and consists of oak, elm, poplar and some pine, with a luxuriant growth of grass in the valley which furnishes an excellent quality of hay. The soil is not unlike other parts of the county contiguous, and is equally productive of like crops.

Early Settlement. The two first settlers in this township were Nels Johnson (Nessa) and Thore Olsen (Faae), who located in section 33 in the year 1853. The property brought with them from La Salle county, Illinois, consisted of three yoke of oxen and a few head of other horned stock, two old rickety lumber wagons (known in those days as prairie schooners), and a small amount of household goods. They at once built a double tenement cabin, each with a single apartment, ten by twelve, and covered it with basswood bark. The floor was what God made, and not graced with carpets. These two men and their families, seven in all, dwelt in this cabin for a few months, when they succeeded in securing better quarters. In 1853 ten acres were broken up on the Newburg side of the line, and in 1854 Nels Johnson (Nessa) commenced to cultivate his present farm in section 22 in Preble township, he being entitled to the credit of being the first man to sow and reap a crop in this township. The first year Nels Johnson (Nessa) and Thore Olsen (Faae) had no near neighbors except a band of Winnebago Indians that had located their "tepees" on the northwest quarter of section 32-102-8, within eighty rods of where the two men with their families had settled, and no doubt these "red skins" excelled at pilfering and begging, and therefore were not a very desirous class of neighbors.

In 1854 several other settlers came in and secured claims near where Nels Johnson (Nessa) and Thore Olson (Faae), had established themselves, and among them were Jacob Jacobson (Hage), Rasmus C. Spande and Christian Christopherson, and among the first settlers in the north part of the township were Ole Gjermundson, Bjorn Larson (Egvene) and Lars C. Tarvestad.

This township ranked among the first in the county in the manufacturing industry. The first mill built in the town was a small sawmill, built in 1855 by an early comer from Cattarangus county, New York, whose name was David Weisel. This mill was situated near the confluence of the south branch of Root river and Weisel creek and near the northeast corner of section 19. The machinery of this diminutive sawmill was, with the exception of the saw and a few castings that were necessary in its erection, made by his own hands. Later a corn cracker was added and operated by the same power. The mill stones were cut from a rock taken from a bluff near by. Immediately after this "corn cracker" (as it was called) was completed and put in

operation the settlers began to flock there with grists of corn and wheat to be ground, and it was taxed to its utmost capacity. There were no bolting attachments to separate the bran from the flour of the grain ground so it had to be done by a hand sieve.

This mill was emphatically a home institution, and like Roe's mill, on Ricceford creek in Houston county, it too "was a very industrious mill, for just as soon as it finished grinding one kernel it commenced on another." It was operated by the builder with considerable success until that terrible flood of August 6, 1866, when he and his mother were drowned and his residence, mill and all his accumulations washed away, leaving nothing as a relic to remind the coming generations where was once situated the happy home of the David Weisel family in the latter part of the fifties.

The first regular grist mill in southeastern Fillmore county was built by Collins Hall in 1857. This was a small frame structure located on Weisel creek near the northeast corner of section 32 in Preble township. Mr. Hall built it according to his own plans, doing most of the work himself. His natural genius was shown by his work and ingenuity, and a successful mill was the result. The builder operated it himself and it was patronized to its utmost capacity until that eventful night of August 6, 1866. A few years later the mill was rebuilt by the proprietor, Collins Hall. This was a more substantial structure, as it was built of stone and was operated by him until his death. Today, what was formerly known as Hall's mill is simply a relic of bygone days.

In the year 1858 the second sawmill was built on Weisel creek in Preble township by E. P. Eddy near the northwest corner of section 29. It was quite substantially built and was operated by Mr. Eddy until it was wrecked by the terrible flood of August 6, 1866. Later the property was sold to James Kelly, who rebuilt the mill and operated it only for a short time, when it again was torn out by a freshet, and has not since been rebuilt.

The next mill built in Preble township was a sawmill by Nels Johnson (Nessa). This was located on the south branch of Root river in the northern part of section 17. It shared the same fate as those higher up the stream on August 6, 1866. It was subsequently rebuilt and Mr. Johnson also added a grist mill in 1872.

Among the early settlers of Preble township whose names have been preserved are the following—the section wherein they settled being given in most cases:

1853—Nels Johnson (Nessa), 33; Thor Olsen (Faae), 33; Nub Nelson, 26; Helge Erickson; Hans Nelson, 36.

1854—Jacob Jacobson (Hage), Rasmus C. Spande, 27; Chris-

topher Christopherson, 28; Ole Gjermundson, 1; Lars C. Tarvestad, 2; David Weisel, 19; Walter Braden, 18; J. C. Braden, 18; W. W. Braden, 18; Bertel Christopherson, 34; Patrick Flanegan, 14; Daniel Malone, 14; Peter Peterson, 33; Peter Peterson, Jr.; Michael Peterson, 33.

1855—Bjorn Larson (Egvene), 2; Iver Thompson, 27; Nels Nelson (Kindingstad), 21; William G. Sutherland; Norman Sutherland, 18; Daniel Sutherland; Isaac Isaacson, 34.

1856—Thomas G. Hall, 29; A. C. Seelye, 31; Ole Anderson, 34; Collins Hall, 29.

1857—Aslak Housker, 36.

1858—Anders Halvorson (Nordbrovaagen), 26; Ole Housker, 36; Rasmus Housker, 36.

1859—Daniel Steeland, 22; John Danielson, 28; Gulick Olsen, 2; Gunder Anderson, 16; Johanes Steeness, 34.

1860—Arne Arneson, 26 (settled in Newburg in 1853).

The Indians. A band of Winnebago Indians encamped on section 32 as late as 1853. On one of their begging tours nine or ten Indians stopped at the cabin of Hans Arneson and asked for something to eat. Mrs. Arneson, in order to get rid of them, went to the bread box and gave them all the bread she had. It was customary for the Indians to examine everything in the house, and on looking in the bread box, saw that it was empty. After a short consultation among themselves in their own language they then gave Mrs. Arneson one of the loaves of bread back. Thus they showed their generosity and belief in the golden rule, "to do as you would wish to be done by." In the fall of 1854 after Austin Eastman had driven the Indians off his claim in section 11-101-9 they camped for the winter on the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 5-102-8, where the spring brook empties into the larger creek. In the spring of 1855 they left their camping ground and have not camped on Weisel creek since that date.

Political. The first town meeting to organize the town and elect officers was held on May 11, 1858. Thomas G. Hall, David Weisel and Iver Thompson had been appointed by the county commissioners as the judges of election. Mr. Hall being absent A. C. Seelye was appointed to fill his place. J. C. Braden and I. H. Titus were appointed as clerks. The total number of votes cast was twenty-seven, and the following officers were unanimously elected: Supervisors, Thomas G. Hall (chairman), Iver Thompson and Walter Braden; town clerk, J. C. Braden; assessor, David Weisel; collector, Nels Nelson; overseer of the poor, Christian Christopherson; justices of the peace, David Weisel and A. C. Seelye; constables, Wm. G. Sutherland and Iver Thompson. The house of Nels Nelson was designated by ballot as the

place for holding elections. On May 22, 1858, the supervisors held a meeting, divided the town into four road districts and selected the following overseers: Lars C. Tarvestad, Ole Anderson, Justus Sutherland and David Weisel. A tax of 2½ mills was levied and two days' work for every man on the roads.

War Record. On September 10, 1864, a bounty fund was voted, of $3,200, one-half to be assessed in the year 1864 and one-half in 1865. On March 27, 1865, a special town meeting was held and the sum of $2,500 voted to be expended in the support of families of drafted men, but the close of the war suspended the tax. In 1864 a home guard was organized under the state law, with Norman Sutherland as captain. They drilled a few times near the schoolhouse in District No. 9.

Postoffice. At first the nearest postoffice was at Decorah, Ia., twenty miles away. After a while a postoffice was established at Lenora and later at Newburg. The office in Preble was established in 1876, the first mail arriving April 13. Samuel Gray was the postmaster. It is on a cross route, between Houston and Decorah. The last postmaster of Preble postoffice was J. W. Horihem. The patrons of this office now receive their mail from Spring Grove. Choice postoffice gave the people good service for many years. The most recent postmasters were J. J. Elepson, Richard O. Richardson and Carl J. Hellerud, the latter being in charge when the office was discontinued. The people now receive their mail by rural route from Mabel. Tawney postoffice opened in the late nineties. The postmaster was T. E. Halvorson. The patrons now receive their mail from Mabel.

CHAPTER XXX.

ARENDAHL AND PILOT MOUND.

Arendahl Township—Story of the Early Days—Land Office Records—An Indian Village—Wassonia—Arendahl Village—Pilot Mound Township—Political Matters—Early Events—Pekin Village.

Arendahl Township is on the northern tier in Fillmore county, the second from the eastern boundary and separated from it by Rushford. The town of Holt is on the south, Pilot Mound on the west and Winona county on the north. In size and form it is identical with the original government survey. Root river cuts across the southeast corner of the town, involving sections 25, 26, 34 and 35. Along this river extends its valley and back at varying distances are the bluffs. The town is diversified with prairie, timber, hill and dale in picturesque variety. It is quite well settled with a thrifty class of farmers. There are two principal branches of Root river coming in from the northwest. A little stream from Winona county dips down into sections 2, 3 and 4.

Early Settlement. Asleck Anderson seems to be entitled to the distinction of being the first Caucasian to locate within the territory of Arendahl. His birth was in Norway and he came to Illinois in 1835, and the next year removed to within about fifteen miles southeast of Beloit, Wis. In the spring of 1854 he came to this town and secured a local habitation in section 12. A part of his farm was sold to P. P. Peterson and a part to Even Olson, his sons-in-law, and about 1873 he removed to Peterson. Knud Thorwaldson, another early settler, was born in Norway in 1828, came to Dane county, Wisconsin, in 1852, and in 1854 took 160 acres in the town of Norway in this county, remaining one year, when he secured a claim in this town, in section 5.

1855—Among those who came this year may be mentioned: Andrew Olson (Olnestad), Andrew Olson (Lodahl), Lars Olson (Lodahl), Hans Augundson and Andrew Ericson, Osmund Roluf-sou.

Those who came through in 1855 and came here to remain the next year were: Svend Thompson (Hustoft) and son Lars, Christian Johnson, Nels A. Gullickson and Harold Olson.

THOMAS FRANKSON'S RESIDENCE

1856—Those who came this year were: Isaac Jackson (who named the town and was first postmaster), John C. Ferguson, Thore K. Jutland, Duncan McConochie.

1857—Halvor Olson, Michael Mead, M. Olson (Olnestad), Eric E. Torsnes, Albert Anderson, Harold Olson.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Arendahl township were issued by the government in 1855. Those who obtained land that year were as follows—the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: April 30, Timothy McCarthy, 34; May 2, Aslack Anderson, 12; May 8, Aslack Anderson, 12; July 3, Aslack Anderson, 12; May 2, Knud Halvorsen, 4; June 16, Knud Halvorsen, 4; June 8, Annon Olson, 3-10; June 19, Annon Olson, 10; June 11, Louis Peterson, 2; June 12, Elisa Ann Smith, 15; June 12, Rebkah Smith, 8-30; June 12, Daniel B. Smith, 17-33; June 12, Washington Wendell, 8-30; June 20, Knud Thorwaldson, 4-5; October 19, Knud Thorwaldson, 4-5; July 2, John Montgomery, 2; July 7, John Montgomery, 11-14; July 3, Aslack Anderson, 11; July 3, Peter Peterson, 13; July 7, Simeon Crittenden, 1-11-14; July 13, Bjorgen Gunderson, 22; July 13, Lars Sorenson, 22; August 30, John Currie, 8; October 11, John W. Henry, 2; October 13, John Hodgdon, 10-15; October 13, James C. Madigan, 15; October 13, Evan Olson, 1; October 18, Evan Olson, 11; October 15, William H. Ennis, 9; October 15, Donald Ferguson, 7; October 17, Walter S. Booth, 9-21-29-31-32; October 17, Joseph A. Ennis, 4-7-9-10-30; October 17, Stark G. Thompson, —; October 19, Christian Thorenson, 2; October 20, Frederick S. Barlow, 5-6; November 5, Frederick S. Barlow, 6; November 15, Frederick S. Barlow, 6; October 20, James A. Fraser, 28-29; October 20, Samuel Hauk, 12; November 5, Eugene M. Wilson, 5-7-18; November 6, Eugene M. Wilson, 5-7-18-20; November 26, Eugene M. Wilson, 6-19-20; November 6, Nelson A. Gullick, 2-11; November 6, John Desmond, 25-26-27; November 6, Harol Olson, 3; November 6, Christopher G. Ripley, 1; November 8, John Gordon, 8; November 8, Christian Johan 13; November 8, Michael Meid, 26; November 8, Duncan McConochie, 18; November 8, Benjamin B. Richards, 25; November 8, Thomas Robertson, 18; November 8, John Thompson, 25-26; November 8, Lars Thompson, 14; November 8, Swend Thompson, 13; November 24, Knud Halverson, 4; November 24, Osmund Rollifson, 5; December 14, Delos Higbie, 2-10; December 10, Delos Higbie, 14-19-35; October 15, Delos Higbie, 14-35; December 10, William Higbie, 19.

An Indian Village. When the white settlers arrived they found a deserted Indian village made up of about forty houses, quite well and comfortably constructed of elm bark and secured

by cords made of the inner part of the same material. Some of them were as large as 60x40 feet and some 20x20 feet. It was located in section 35 on a table near the river on the north half of the southeast quarter. Some of the settlers utilized the best of the bark of which these lodges were composed to construct their own dwellings.

Political. This town started on its career as an independent organization on April 1, 1860, having previously been a part of Rushford. The meeting was at the residence of Isaac Jackson. The name of the town was given by Mr. Jackson in honor of a Norway locality. At the first meeting there were twenty-seven votes cast. Lewis Peterson was clerk of the election and Lars Thompson, Nels Gullickson and Knud Thorwaldson were the judges. Lars Thompson, Even Olson and Halver Olson were elected supervisors; Lewis Peterson was the first clerk; D. McConochie, superintendent of schools; Isaac Jackson and Duncan McConochie, justices of the peace; Nels Gullickson and Andrew O. Olnestad, constables; Knud Thorwaldson, assessor, and Christian Johnson, treasurer. The better class of men have filled the town offices from time to time, and its affairs have been well managed.

Wassonia. During the early days of colonizing the Root river valley, when there was a steady oncoming tide of people, mostly from the East, the mania for surveying and platting cities was epidemic all along this frontier, and so a city was projected in sections 25 and 26, on the banks of the Root river. It was laid out and given the name of Wassonia. The charts that were issued to secure the sale of lots were in a high style of art, the streets and square, avenues and parks, boulevards and public grounds were magnificently portrayed. Mills, schoolhouses, churches and hotels were located at eligible points. A steamboat landing was represented with a steamer at the wharf and the concomitants of metropolitan life and splendor were exhibited. Of course the lots were sold to eastern men and the title duly conveyed, but they have long since been sold for taxes.

Arendahl Village. The first store in Arendahl was opened by John Jackson in 1865 at his father's residence. He kept a small stock of goods but had considerable patronage. In about one year the store was closed out. J. Jackson began merchandising with a small stock of goods, about $600 worth. In 1871 he took N. W. Jager as a partner and they bought out R. K. Rolefson, who had just opened a stock of goods near the Lutheran church. The building was then moved to section 9. In March, 1874, Mr. Jager sold his interest to Jackson, who sold to his father, Isaac Jackson, some time during the year. In 1881 J. Jackson again secured possession.

The postoffice was established in March, 1861. Isaac Jackson was the postmaster and the office was opened at his house in section 10. In 1872 it was removed to the store kept by his son, J. Jackson, and N. W. Jager was appointed postmaster. In March, 1874, when Mr. Jager sold his interest in the store to his partner, Mr. Jackson became postmaster. Among more recent postmasters have been O. A. Ness and Edward E. Sandli, the latter being in charge when the office was discontinued by reason of the extension of the rural service from Rushford.

Pilot Mound adjoins the northern boundary of the county and is the third from the eastern line. Its immediate surroundings are Winona county on the north, Arendahl on the east, Carrolton on the south and Chatfield on the west. The town contains 22,995.57 acres. Pilot Mound is made up of ravines and ridges. In the northern part there is prairie land with dark rich loam, further south the ridges are more narrow and the soil is of a lighter clay, but is very productive. When first settled there was considerable fine timber in the township. There is plenty of water in the town. The north, or larger branch of the Root river goes through the lower part of the town in a tortuous course, working toward the east, and its course will be briefly described. It first crosses the western line of the town into section 7 and flows south and west into section 18 and back into Chatfield, returning into town in section 19, thence through section 20 it swings round into section 29 and then into 28, then into 33 and back into 28 and 27, and there forms a loop involving sections 27, 22, 23, 26 and 35, where it runs southwest through 34 into Carrolton, to re-enter the town in section 35 and doubling on itself in section 36, leaves the town. This town corresponds with a government survey, except that one-half each of sections 33, 34 and 35 are in Carrolton. It is said that some political purpose was to be subserved in transferring this territory to the latter town some years ago. The next most important stream is Trout run, which comes into town in section 5 and, with few deflections to the right or left, flows south to make a confluence with Root river in section 20. Money creek is the next largest stream. It rises in section 3 and, flowing nearly parallel with Trout run, discharges into the Root river in section 27. The elevation from which the township takes its name is in the southwestern part of section 11. It is a mound containing thirty-five acres at the base and about twenty-five at the top, about twelve acres of which is tillable, the rest is limestone and ledgey. It forms a prominent and striking object in the landscape and formerly guided many a weary traveler as he wended his way toward the West.

Early Settlement. The first white man to lay claim upon the

broad acres of Uncle Sam in Pilot Mound was Arthur B. Bowe, from the Green Mountain state, who had been living in the adjoining county of Houston and had stopped a while in Rushford. In 1854 he came over on this virgin soil and staked out a claim in section 7, and in fact laid claim to all the land unoccupied in southern Minnesota, whenever a prospector made his appearance. He would show a new comer an eligible location and offer to sell his right, title and interest for as much as he could get, and it is said that he actually sold the same lot a second time and thus got into trouble and had to leave for a more desirable county. Of course the purchaser would have to enter his land at the land office and pay $200 for every 160 acres. The next man to place himself north of Root river in this town was Nelson Frost, also from Vermont. He at first bought a claim of Bowe, consisting of 160 acres in sections 7 and 8, for which he paid $75. Afterwards he bargained for another claim of Bowe on Trout run in section 9, where he put up an unhewn timber abode, the first house in this part of the town. The same year Erick Torkelson and Elling Miller, from Norway, located in the south part of the town. They had previously lived a few years in Wisconsin. Torkelson took his land in section 32 and Miller in section 31.

In 1855 James Martin, an Englishman, settled in sections 4 and 9. Henry Jones, the same year, from Illinois, took a claim in section 9. G. W. Hammer, from Illinois, secured a site for a farm in section 22. John Ellsburg secured a place in section 22. Isaac Dickinson, of New Jersey, found a home in section 6.

In 1856 Terrence Dolan, a native of Ireland, came here from Chatfield and located in section 7. Peter and Seger Berg came from Norway the same year and took land in sections 24 and 26. James McKeown, of the Emerald Isle, secured a place in section 10. He had lived one year in Jordan in this county.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Pilot Mound township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows—the date of issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: September 23, Arthur Bowe, 7; October 21, Havans Newman, 19; October 31, Nelson Frost, 7.

Those who secured land in 1855 were as follows: May 11, Christian Olson, 31; June 23, George W. Hammer, 21; June 23, Jacob Oleson, 30; July 17, Cornelius Crowley, 26; November 7, Isaac Dickisson, 6; November 7, Thomas Doland, 6; November 7, Eben C. Richards, 9; November 13, David J. Newman, 21;

November 19, Jacob R. Ames, 11; November 19, Truman A. Brownell, 28.

Those who secured land in 1856 were as follows: April 9, James Martin, 4; April 11, Jesper Pitcher, 22-23; April 17, James Garden, 4; April 17, Henry Jones, 9; April 22, Charles M. Foot, 6; April 22, Sidney B. Hawley, 6; April 22, James Martin, 9; May 7, James F. Fullerton, 26; May 10, Otis F. Chase, 20; May 14, William S. Hall, 3-4-10; June 16, Eunice Curtis, 14; June 17, Augustus Birge, 2; June 18, Allen Smith, 27-34; June 18, Mary S. Friend, 27-33-34; June 20, Isaac Julian, 8; June 23, Richard Carr, 8; June 24, Jeremiah Harvey, 27; June 26, Chester B. Gifford, 14; June 27, Ole Knudson, 30; July 2, Ever Everson, 18; July 8, Mary Vanburen, 10; July 9, Francis Packer, 11; July 9, Merridith Pitcher, 11; July 9, Samuel L. Pitcher, 14; July 9, Spencer Pitcher, 15; July 10, William Vanburen, 19; July 11, Isaac Hammer, 10; July 17, Andrew Olson, 25; July 19, Wentworth Littlefield, 4; July 19, Barney Myers, 19; July 28, Isaac F. Morgan, 8; August 22, William Martin, Sr., 9; August 23, Thomas Hughes, 17-18; August 25, Thomas Hughes, 18; August 30, Limuel Cotton, 3; August 30, Benjamin F. Whitney, 10; September 3, Mitchell D. Meadows, 20; September 3, Steven Trindal, 4; September 5, Martin Youngbower, 21-23; September 9, Milton M. Morgan, 20; September 10, Harvey Lampman, 22; September 10, Milton M. Morgan, 17; September 10, Newell Tilton, Jr., 1; September 11, John McBurney, 7-18; September 18, Nicholas Grant, 13; September 18, Peter Scranling, 27-28; September 18, Stephen Thornton, 14; September 23, Chalmers H. Noyes, 12; September 23, Homer H. Sheldon, 12; September 27, Lafayett Allen, 10; September 27, Amos C. Sheldon, 2; October 6, Thomas Lane, 15; October 27, Otis Haven, 21; October 29, Ansen Engreen, 19-30; October 29, John H. Bonesteel, 29; October 31, Spencer Hitchcock, 9; November 5, Daniel Scanlon, 25-26-35; November 18, James Davis, 28; November 18, William Roberts, 21; November 20, Patrick Leonard, 18-19; November 26, William Martin, Jr., 15; November 27, Lucas Morgan, 6.

General Remarks. The first white child known to be born here was William Henry Martin, March 26, 1856. The first death was that of Marie Anna Frost, daughter of Nelson and Anna Frost, in May, 1855. Under the territorial government Henry Rouse was justice of the peace, and a case was once tried before him where both parties were so obviously at fault that he fined both, the complainant and the defendant dividing the costs. The popular verdict approved the sentence and the men went home satisfied.

Political. The town was regularly organized May 11, 1858, at the schoolhouse in district 63. H. R. Rouse called the meeting

to order. The moderator was Charles E. Rockwell; Clerk, J. H. Roberts; judges, E. C. Degrush and H. A. Rouse. It was decided to call the township Pilot Mound by a vote of 36 in favor to 22 for the name of Clinton. The whole number of votes cast at that election was 58.

The result of the election was as follows: Supervisors, C. N. French (chairman), E. C. Degrush, a vacancy; clerk, J. H. Roberts; assessor, S. A. Woolcott; collector, T. J. Hammer; overseer of the poor, Nelson Frost; constables, James A. Newman and Lafayette Allen; justices, H. R. Rouse and W. Wendall. This year $200 was raised to defray expenses for the ensuing year. On May 29, 1858, it was decided to divide the township into four districts and appoint a road overseer for each district.

At an election held March 12, 1912, there was voted for current expenses $1,600. Officers were elected as follows: Supervisors, Alex. McConochie, M. O. Skrukrud, E. A. Moen; town clerk, Edwin P. Thompson; assessor, Elias A. Mess; treasurer, Henry P. Christopherson; constable, Christ Hermanson; justice, J. M. Houghtelin. The town is very prosperous and has done much in building and caring for roads. Within the past few years two large bridges have been built across the Root river under a plan whereby the county pays for half and the township for half. The town hall is located in section 10.

In the War. This town furnished 103 men for the Union army, as is claimed, and paid $8,000 in bounties to the soldiers.

Early Events. About the year 1855 there were two blacksmith shops started in town, one by Elling Miller, in the southwest part of the town in section 32 and the other by John Ellsbury in section 2. The first sawmill in town was built in 1858 in section 4 by Charles Rockwell on Trout run. It was a vertical saw, and was driven by water with a head of eight feet. In 1864 Mr. Rockwell sold to Lewis Foss and Brother for $1,000. They conducted it two years and then transferred the property to A. Currie for a like sum. After a time the mill went into disuse and the dam washed away. In 1874 the mill blew down, and thus passed away this relic of early days.

Pekin Village. The first attempt at keeping a store was by William Van Buren, a shoemaker, who kept a small stock of goods in the shop where he worked at his trade. This was in section 10. He kept this running for about two years and then removed to Troy. The next to go into merchandising was the firm of Jones & Hitchcock in May, 1867, starting at first with a stock of $600, in section 10, at the "Four Corners." In 1869 the business was transferred to Hammer & Newman. It changed hands several times previous to 1881, when it was secured by Isaac Jackson. A postoffice was established in 1856, with David

Billings Smith as postmaster. It was kept in section 12 at first, and afterwards, about 1860, removed to Pekin. In 1861 E. D. Hammer was postmaster, serving till 1867. George Gould was the next, and then Spencer Hitchcock was appointed. Several others followed and the office is now discontinued, the last postmaster being H. Christopherson. The office was known as Pilot Mound. The patrons now receive their mail in Chatfield.

CHAPTER XXXI.

FOUNTAIN AND FILLMORE.

Fountain Village—Fountain Township—Early Settlers—Pioneer Events—Fillmore Township—Fillmore Village—Wykoff Village—Municipal History—Prominent Citizens.

Fountain is a flourishing village in Fountain township, on the Southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road. It has good schools, three churches, two hotels, two general stores, a drug store, a bank, a newspaper, street lights, water works, two restaurants and grocery stores, two blacksmith shops, a hardware store, an implement store, a lumber yard, two elevators, and the usual business and professional activities.

Early History. The land upon which the village of Fountain now stands was first taken by a company of speculators, who held it for a few months. The first actual settler upon the land was Patrick Mangan, who arrived early in the fifties and commenced improvements, building a log hut on section 10, south of the present site of the village. When the Southern Minnesota began pushing its line into Fillmore county, a townsite company was formed between H. W. Holley, D. J. Cameron, and Mr. Wykoff, and the interest in the land was purchased of Patrick Mangan. This was in 1870, and when the railroad passed through the place in November, the village was platted and recorded by the above mentioned firm. The name of the village was derived from the same source as that of the town—the Fountain spring in section 4.

The first building erected for business purposes was put up in the summer of 1869, when the railroad grading commenced, by John Dahl, who came from Lanesboro, and opened a saloon. The Arkle brothers were the first to go into general merchandise trade. They put up a building shortly after Dahl's was completed, and placed a stock of general merchandise upon the shelves. D. Wilson arrived shortly after and put up a restaurant, which he afterwards ran as a tavern. Patrick Ferris put up a hotel in the village.

In 1872, a fire destroyed the greater portion of the business part of the town, but it was rebuilt and the traces of the catas-

B. O. BOLLES AND FAMILY

trophe obliterated. J. P. Tibbetts put in the first drug store. D. D. Farrell shipped in lumber on the first freight train, and put up a hotel opposite the Case House, but only conducted it as a hotel for one or two weeks. Mr. Farrell afterwards erected five buildings in Fountain.

Municipal History. The village of Fountain was incorporated by an act of the legislature passed in 1876, and Patrick Ferris, A. Ferguson and D. D. Farrell were appointed judges of the first election. The first village meeting was held upon the 14th of April, 1876, and the following officers elected: President, A. Ferguson; trustees, J. W. Reedy, H. Thompson, and A. Benson; treasurer, W. R. Ellsworth; recorder, A. W. Powers; marshal, D. J. Driscoll; justice of the peace, O. H. Case.

The early records of the village have been lost or mislaid. Since 1893, the presidents and clerks of the council have been as follows: 1893, D. D. Farrell, A. W. Powers; 1894, John Johnson, William A. Herniman; 1895, E. K. Blexrud, E. J. Keenan; 1896, E. K. Blexrud, E. J. Keenan; 1897, A. W. Powers, G. E. McKeown; 1898, A. W. Powers, G. E. McKeown; 1899, J. H. Mooney, A. H. Norton; 1900, John Johnson, A. H. Norton; 1901, G. E. McKeown, C. H. Nehrhood; 1902, D. J. Danielson, J. A. Newman; 1903, M. McDermott, E. J. Keenan; 1904, D. D. Farrell, C. C. Pickering; 1905, A. W. Powers, C. C. Pickering; 1906, A. W. Powers, C. C. Pickering; 1907, Brady Olson, E. J. Keenan; 1908, A. W. Powers, C. C. Pickering; 1909, 1910 and 1911, the same. The village hall was built in 1894 at a cost of $2,000.

The officers for 1912 are: President, A. W. Powers; trustees, J. O. Sollie, C. E. Foss, E. A. Danielson; recorder, D. J. Danielson; treasurer, Hiram Johnson; justices, B. J. Bowers, L. E. Bostian; constables, T. G. Parker, James Daugherty.

Water Works. In 1906 and again in 1907 bonds were voted to install a water works system. The water was first turned into the mains January 7, 1907. The mains cover about one and a half miles, and power being obtained from a pressure tank into which the water is pumped by a twenty-five horse power gasoline engine.

FOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP.

Fountain Township is bounded by Chatfield, Carrolton, Carimona, and Fillmore, on the north, east, south, and west respectively. The regular government thirty-six sections make up its territorial area. Watson creek is the largest river, and this runs across the southern part of the town, and has numerous branches joining it from the right and left. Winslow creek rises in section 7 and leaves the town in a northeasterly course. Big Spring, the third or fourth with this name, rises in section 3, and sends a

good sized rivulet into the last mentioned creek in section 4. The west half of the town may be called a rolling prairie, and was, when first entered upon by white settlers, covered with brush which has disappeared as the cultivation of the soil has been carried on. The soil is of a light clayey character and very productive.

Early Settlement. The first settlers in this town arrived in 1853. Abram Kalder was the first and he took the northwest quarter of section thirty, near a beautiful spring called afterwards "Kalder's Spring." He is a native of New York, remained a few years and moved to Preston. George Kalder was also owner of land in section thirty, but he died in Michigan soon after the war.

Hosmer H. Winslow, a native of Vermont, came here from Illinois in 1854, and his land was in section five. He died in 1874. Enoch Winslow took his farm in section four, but removed to Kansas in 1878. Henry Winslow located in section five, but removed to Olmstead county in 1859 and afterwards to Kansas. These men were brothers and came about the same time. S. T. Bagley, of New York, came from Wisconsin and went onto section five. In 1865 he went to Mower county. Edward Stevens came by the way of Wisconsin and located in section fifteen. Nicholas Wallrod, of New York, who had stopped a while in Illinois, secured a farm in section thirty. Abraham Finch, also of New York, came here and settled on section nineteen. Carl Boyer also came this year.

Some of the arrivals in 1855 are mentioned in the following paragraph:

James Scott, a native of Indiana, who came from Iowa, bought a place in section four. He died in 1875. J. W. Hagerty, of Pennsylvania, came from Illinois in May and procured a farm in section eight. J. L. Bolles was here the year before and selected land which he occupied this year. George Kenney had land in section seven. He died the next year. Thomas Shipton had a place in section seventeen. William Stevens, from Ireland, came here from New York after tarrying a while in Illinois and Wisconsin. James and Martin Mulroy located their farms in section nine. Robert Splainer came from Massachusetts and in about ten year returned. William Maus, of Indiana, came in October and took a claim in section thirty-one. D. D. Farrell and father arrived in 1855 and pre-empted a claim upon section three.

In 1856 there were quite a number of newcomers, and a dozen or so will be mentioned. Walter Staplin, of New York state, arrived here in June. He first held a claim in section seventeen, but moved to section seven. Patrick McCardle settled in section eighteen. Joseph Means had a place in section twenty-eight.

Martin Newcomb, of Ireland, came here from Illinois and bought a farm in section nine. Gibson Essington, of Ohio, came here from Indiana. His land was in section thirty-one. Whitney Jewell, of New York, came from Jefferson county, Wisconsin, and got a place in section thirty-one, where he remained about eighteen months and sold out and moved to Pine Island. Valentine Woodburn, of Pennsylvania, came and secured a home in section nineteen. In 1861 he enlisted in the Third Minnesota regiment, Company C, and was killed at the battle of Murfreesboro, October 4, 1863. William H. Shipton came here from Pennsylvania and settled in section twenty-nine. James Earley, from Virginia, came from Ohio, where he had been living, and planted himself in section nineteen.

Another among the earliest settlers was J. T. Mulvihill, who came at an early day and located in the northeastern part of the town. P. J. O'Shaughnessy came about the same time and preempted a claim adjoining Mulvihill's. Patrick Mangan was among the first to put in an appearance, and located in section ten. He afterwards sold out his claim there and secured another on section twenty-four.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Fountain township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner, and then the section in which the land was largely located: September 5, William Chalfant, 33; September 8, Hiram Johnson, 33; September 8, James Watson, 28; September 8, Thomas Watson, 28; October 11, Hosmer H. Winslow, 5; November 20, Henry H. Winslow, 6.

Those who obtained land in 1855 were as follows: April 9, Jacob Hostetter, 6; May 23, Herman Pederson, 3; July 19, William B. Norman, 28; July 19, William Wimmer, 34; July 27, Alexander Wight, 34; August 8, Patrick Egan, 34; August 17, Jacob Annis, 27—34; December 17, John Johnson, 10—14—15; December 29, Martin Mulroy, 35.

Early Events. Susan C., daughter of Gibson and Sarah A. Essington, was born November 15, 1857. She married Cassius Wilson. Euphemia, daughter of William and Sarah Norman, was born in February, 1857. John Hagerty and Malvina Winslow were married on November 7, 1855. James Watson and Sarah A. Maus were united in marriage December 7, 1856. Caroline, daughter of Henry and Louise Winslow, died in January, 1855, at the age of fifteen years. Avery Kinney was born in April, 1855, and died three days later.

Political. As with other subdivisions of the county, this town was organized in 1858, the first town meeting being held at the

house of Edward Cummings on May 11. The judges of the first election were Thomas Watson, J. L. Bolles and Hiram Johnson; clerks, J. W. Hagerty and Martin Mulroy. The following were declared elected by the judges, and all served, to-wit: Supervisors, Thomas C. Watson (chairman), H. T. Trumbull and James Healy; clerk, Hiram Johnson; collector, S. F. Stilson; assessor, P. McCabe; overseer of the poor, Jacob Hostetler; constables, James Watson and R. W. Staplin. The board then proceeded to dispose of such business as should come before it, dividing the township into four road districts and appointing road masters. They also passed a resolution to the effect that the next meeting of the board would be held at the residence of James Healy.

On August 29, 1864, a special town meeting was held for the purpose of raising a bounty for volunteers to fill the town quota, and after some discussion a bounty of three hundred dollars was voted to every man who should volunteer and serve.

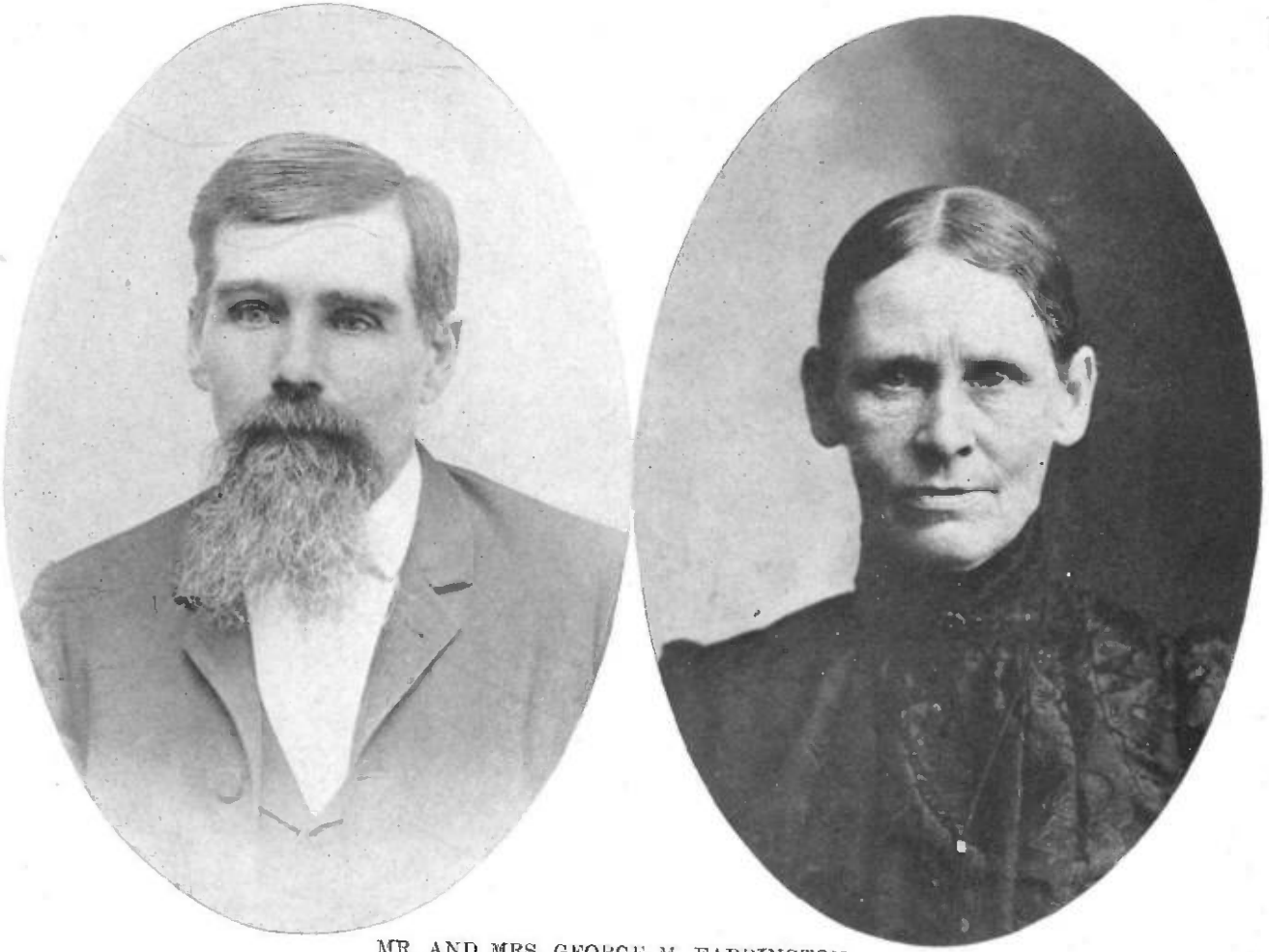
Postoffice. A postoffice was established in the last half of the sixties. A petition for an office was circulated by G. Essington, which was favorably considered, and J. V. Sharpe received the commission. The office was opened at his house and kept until he moved away in 1871, then Chester Clark took it. T. Wallrod was the next in charge. The Watson Creek office, as it was called, was discontinued about 1890.

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP.

Fillmore township has Jordan on the north, Fountain on the east, Forestville on the south, and Spring Valley on the west. Bear creek, Deer creek, and Spring Valley creek, or, as it is commonly known, Middle Branch or Root river, and their tributaries are in the northwestern part of the town.

Early Settlement. The early settlement and initiatory steps which led to the founding and subsequent development of this thriving township, in common with the majority of Fillmore county's subdivisions, date back well into the fifties. Its early pioneers and hardy backwoodsmen were not men who came for speculation, nor were they men who expected or even hoped to accumulate a fortune in a day; but men who knew there would be hardships and trials to endure, and they were not mistaken. One without the experience cannot realize the tribulations incident to such a life.

In the year 1853, Walker & Foote, the renowned stage men, were operating an extensive stage line through Fillmore county, and this township lay directly in its path. As early as 1853 the site of the village of Fillmore was one of the points made by the stages, and it is claimed by a few that as early as that time there



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE M. FARRINGTON

was a little hewn log hut on that site, in which was kept a limited stock of dried meats, bacon, crackers and provisions, and a stock of whisky to cheer the weary traveler. But this is uncertain, as the time of its coming and the date of its departure are a mystery. During this year, while a few passed through the town on the stage line, there were no settlers, and none who examined the surrounding country with a view to settlement.

In the year 1854, while the autumn leaves were falling, in the month of August, a party of three pushed their way into this township with a view to establishing a home. They were John Crain, his son, Charles W. Crain, and Jacob Ham, all having made their way from McHenry county, Illinois, by way of Iowa. They settled near one spot on section thirty-three in the southern part of the town, and commenced putting up huts. The first year was spent by them in almost entire solitude, it only being interrupted by the arrival of John K. Ells, who came in the same year and settled in section twenty-five. In the meantime the northern part of the town was making evolutions toward civilization. Paul Jones and son and son-in-law, Beverstock, had arrived early that year and located and platted the village of Fillmore on section three. With this scanty settlement the progress of the town remained at a standstill until the following spring.

In 1855 many acquisitions were made to the settlements, which began to embrace all parts of the town. P. M. Mosher and father arrived in the spring and planted their stakes in section three. Isaac Decou put in an appearance and located in the northern part of the town, but he remained only a few years. E. S. Smith came and located near Fillmore village and commenced the erection of a sawmill. A number of others also put in an appearance, some to file on land for homes, but mostly transients who remained at the village. This was a very trying period for the settlers. Their nearest market was Winona, and supplies were brought from Iowa. In getting provisions it became customary among the settlers to club together and hire a man to ride down into Iowa and obtain supplies for the entire settlement. The year 1855 opened the era of immigration to this town, and the following are among those who came to prepare those already here for the rush of the following year. O. O. Wallace arrived and settled on section twenty-six. E. D. Kellogg, from New York, put in an appearance and located on section one. M. Garry brought his family, consisting of his wife and twelve children, and commenced calling section two his home.

In 1856, F. H. Bartlett, from New York, accompanied by his wife and two children, arrived and laid claim to one hundred and sixty acres in section twenty-two. With Bartlett came A. Clifford and William Odell, both of Wisconsin. Clifford located in section

twenty-one and remained until late in the sixties. Odell became disheartened and returned to Wisconsin, where he died. W. H. Prosser arrived in June and made himself at home on section thirty-three. Thomas Pulford arrived in the summer and now occupies a farm on section sixteen. Daniel S. Hoff, a native of New York state, arrived in the fall and commenced managing a hotel in Fillmore village. J. A. Pulford arrived and located on section fifteen. George Sheppard, formerly of Germany, put in an appearance and, after drifting around a time, located on sections nine and ten.

The year 1857 dawned upon the settlers and during the first few months subjected them to the most severe hardships yet experienced. The month of January opened with a very heavy snowstorm, which continued, with renewed fury and violence, for about a week, filling the ravines, crevices and roads, and leaving the level prairie covered with a heavy bed of snow. This was followed by a slight thaw, which immediately froze very solid, making a crust that would bear the weight of a man. Most of the settlers were left without hay, as their supply was out on the prairie, and it was impossible to drive a team over the crust. Thus few of the settlers who had stock escaped loss of part of their herds, and today there are many settlers who tell of how they had dug for three and four days through this heavy crust and deep snow, hunting for hay. But as the season moved on the snow disappeared, and in the fall an abundant harvest rejoiced and made hopeful the heart of the pioneer. Among others who had arrived ere this time may be mentioned the following: George and James Stewart, Michael Lewis, Robert Crowell, James Kelly, James Bowers, H. Hall, James Sheppard, Thomas Davis and others.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Fillmore township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner, and then the section in which the land was largely located: November 20, Jason L. Bolles, 5; November 20, John Oleson, 6.

Those who secured land in 1855 were as follows: April 23, Levi R. Allen, 8; April 23, Robert Rea, 7; April 24, Albert S. Tedman, 8; April 30, Constant B. Beverstock, 3; April 30, Elijah B. Jones, 9; April 30, Harrold H. Jones, 10; April 30, John Mawer, 5; April 19, James Tabor, 6; April 30, Thomas Tabor, 5; May 3, Francis Miller, 8; May 12, Joseph Bowers, 8; May 17, William W. Porter, 4; May 19, William Cook, 8; June 1, Victor M. Demick, 7; June 18, Asher Turner, 6; June 18, Sherman M. Turner, 6; June 26, William Triggs, 19; June 27, Francis B. Simons, 3—4; July 4, Ernst Brandt, 18; July 22, Elisha H.

Shaw, 10; July 24, William P. Odell, 6; August 31, Simeon S. Odell, 19; September 15, Leonard Anderson, 18; October 5, Michael Freese, 2—3; October 12, Leomon W. Bisbey, 17; October 12, John Crain, 33; October 18, Oliver Whaler, 7; October 19, John Bateman, 20; October 19, David Tobler, 17; October 30, Pascal P. Pines, 11—14; November 3, John G. Bawldin, 19; November 8, Thomas Masteller, 33—32—28—29; November 10, George R. Albro, 28; November 10, Jacob Ham, 28—33; November 15, George S. Masters, 17; November 16, William Olver, 18; November 17, William H. Clarns, 6; November 20, John C. Anderson, 18; November 26, Abram Kalder, 18; December 12, Ebeneser Brown, 4; December 21, Robert C. McCord, 20; December 21, Arlow L. How, 18.

Murder. A murder occurred in this town as early as 1856. A man named John Branski, living on section four, was murdered in a quarrel with a neighbor over his claim line. The murderer was arrested and tried, but finally got away. His name was Walker, and he was seen once since the crime was committed, getting on a vessel in San Francisco, to sail for a foreign port.

Political. The first town meeting was held May 11, 1858, at Fillmore village. The records of the meetings and proceedings of the board in Fillmore township for the first few years have unfortunately been lost or misplaced. The first meeting was held in Decou's "Log Hotel," Geo. Decou being the moderator. T. G. Pond was the first chairman of the board, O. T. Blood and S. Otis the first justices of the peace, and Chas. W. Crain and George Fisk, constables.

On February 26, 1864, a special meeting was held by the board of supervisors to see about voting a bounty to the volunteers, but the proposition was tabled, and at a subsequent meeting it was defeated.

Fillmore Village. The land where the hamlet stands was preempted in the spring of 1854, in section three, by Doctor Paul Jones. The year following, Isaac Decou came and built and opened the first store, and remained about three years. He was a prominent man and a member of the legislature, but after a time went to Michigan, and finally to Kansas. Robert Ray built a log cabin in the village in 1856, and opened a stock of general merchandise which he kept two or three years. The third store was built by Lee & Kimball and this firm also built a grist-mill and had it running in 1858. William Kimball came from Decorah, and Mr. Lee from McGregor. At the time Mr. Jones came, his wife was also along, and his son and a son-in-law, Mr. Beverstock. Isaac Brinker came here from Clayton county, Iowa, and remained until 1878, when he went to Dakota. In 1856, Isaac

Decou and D. J. Mosher came from New York, and thus the village was started. The first hotel was built and kept by Paul Jones and Mr. Beverstock. The post-office was established in 1856, with Robert Ray as postmaster. William Mosher was appointed in May, 1877. D. R. Farrington, who succeeded R. C. Farrington, was the last postmaster. Mail is now received by rural route from Wykoff.

WYKOFF VILLAGE.

Wykoff is a thriving village on the southern Minnesota division of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, in Fillmore township. It has four churches, a creamery, two banks, five general stores, a drug store, a clothier, two hardware stores, a furniture store, a jewelry store, a restaurant and grocery store combined, a meat market, two saloons, a newspaper, five elevators, flour mill, two blacksmith and woodworking shops, two implement dealers, harness shop, a livery barn, several fraternities, a public school and a Lutheran school, a thriving business men's association, water works, street lights, post-office, and the usual business and professional activities.

Wykoff Business Men's Association. This association was organized Aug. 16, 1907, with thirty-five members. The first officers were: President, J. T. Dunn; vice-president, W. H. Miller; treasurer, C. M. Allen; secretary, E. P. Johnson. The organization was responsible for: The building of the creamery; the building of the ball park; the installation of hitching posts to the value of $100.00; the improvement of the roads in the vicinity; the agitation of the lighting proposition, which resulted in the village putting in a coal gas plant, costing $3,000.00; and many other improvements. The society was finally discontinued, the last meeting being held December 21, 1908, at which time there were enrolled forty-one members.

Early History. Wykoff was projected simultaneously with the coming of the railroad and was platted two years later. The land was originally pre-empted in June, 1856, by F. H. Bartlett. The first settler here was F. H. Bartlett, who came from Oneida county, New York, landed at this point in June, 1856, located on the southwest quarter of section twenty-two, within the limits of the present village, and erected a native timber residence to protect himself, wife, and two children, Elsie and Elmer. Wm. Odell came at the same time, but remained only a few days and moved to Cannon Falls. A. Clifford pre-empted 160 acres in section twenty-one. These were the original owners. The village was platted by H. W. Holley, the chief engineer of the railroad, who, with F. H. Bartlett, owned the land. The plat was recorded

in 1871, when the depot was built. In 1875, an addition of twenty acres was made, and called Bartlett & Bank's addition. The first building was constructed as a boardinghouse for some time. The first store was by W. R. & C. G. Edwards. In December, 1871, they got in the first stock of general merchandise. Marvin and D. J. Egleston soon put up the store and put in a stock of goods. A. R. Brass built a warehouse, and the two elevators went up at the same time.

Municipal History. Wykoff was incorporated as a village by special act of the legislature approved March 8, 1876. Frank H. Bartlett, Charles W. Crain and L. G. Kilborn were the provisional officers to secure the organization. The principal officers of the village have been:

1876—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, M. J. Barrett, Fred Wendorf, A. Drew; recorder, L. G. Kilborn; treasurer, W. G. Banks.

1877—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees; M. J. Barrett, Fred Wendorf, Alex Stewart; recorder, J. T. Sherman; treasurer, E. M. Lockwood.

1878—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, P. R. Jorris, Fred Wendorf, Timothy Stout; recorder, L. G. Kilborn; treasurer, John Gregor.

1879—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, J. A. Rutherford, Charles Drew, Timothy Stout; recorder, L. G. Kilborn; treasurer, R. Odell.

1880—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, Jacob Rau, J. A. Rutherford, J. H. Phillips; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, R. Odell.

1881—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, P. R. Jorris, Jacob Rau, J. H. Phillips; recorder, F. C. Krueger; treasurer, R. Odell.

1882—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, P. R. Jorris, J. H. Phillips, F. V. Coelln; recorder, J. R. Murrel; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1883—President, Jacob Rau; trustees, F. V. Coelln, P. R. Jorris, E. D. Bartlett; recorder, J. R. Murrel; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1884—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, F. V. Coelln, P. R. Jorris, James Fitzthun; recorder, J. R. Murrel; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1885—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, P. R. Jorris, W. G. Banks, James Fitzthun; recorder, J. R. Murrel; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1886—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, P. R. Jorris, C. F. Schatz, W. G. Banks; recorder, H. A. Spies; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1887—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, James Fitzthun,

Erdman Krueger, J. R. Murrel; recorder, W. J. Rau; treasurer, L. G. Kilborn.

1888—President, P. R. Jorris; trustees, Erdman Krueger, D. C. Green, Patrick Healy; recorder, W. J. Rau.

1889—President, P. R. Jorris; trustees, D. C. Green, Erdman Krueger, H. A. Spies; recorder, J. R. Murrel.

1890—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, D. C. Green, Erdman Krueger, Edward Conroy; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1891—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, Erdman Krueger, Edward Conroy, D. C. Green; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1892—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, D. C. Green, E. Krueger, Jacob Rau; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1893—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, E. Krueger, Jacob Rau, D. C. Green; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1894—President, F. H. Bartlett; trustees, E. D. Bartlett, C. F. Schatz, August Derenthal; recorder, P. R. Jorris; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1895—President, E. D. Bartlett; trustees, August Derenthal, J. M. Moore, J. R. Murrel; recorder, G. L. Rau; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1896—President, E. D. Bartlett; trustees, August Derenthal, J. M. Moore, J. R. Murrel; recorder, G. L. Rau; treasurer, Fred Wendorf.

1897—President, W. G. Banks; trustees, G. E. Campbell, D. N. Peshak, E. J. Flynn; recorder, M. J. Healy; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1898—President, J. R. Murrel; trustees, W. F. Lenz, P. R. Jorris, August Derenthal; recorder, G. W. Pulham; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1899—President, J. R. Murrel; trustees, W. F. Lenz, P. R. Jorris, August Derenthal; recorder, George Rau; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1900—President, E. D. Barlett; trustees, C. J. Spies, W. F. Lenz, G. E. Campbell; recorder, George Rau; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1901—President, S. Thoeni; trustees, O. M. Rowley, M. Eggleston, George Stuart; recorder, Edward Geske; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1902—President, S. Thoeni; trustees, M. Flanagan, Jacob Rau, A. G. Spies; recorder, Edward Geske; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1903—President, S. Thoeni; trustees, J. M. Moore, Jacob Rau, A. G. Spies; recorder, W. F. Krueger; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1904—President, S. Thoeni; trustees, J. M. Moore, Jacob Rau, William Crowley; recorder, D. M. Peshak; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1905—President, George Rau; trustees, O. M. Rowley, L. C. Kramer, William Crowley; recorder, D. M. Peshak; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1906—President, S. Thoeni; trustees, L. C. Kramer, August Derenthal, W. H. Miller; recorder, W. F. Krueger; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1907—President, August Derenthal; trustees, W. H. Miller, O. M. Rowley, John Lottes; recorder, Edward Behring; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1908—President, August Derenthal; trustees, William Crowley, E. H. Alberts, John Lottes; recorder, E. P. Johnson; treasurer, A. G. Spies.

1909—President, August Derenthal; trustees, John Lottes, E. H. Alberts, T. Healy; recorder, G. N. Sheppard; treasurer, A. G. Spies.

1910—President, August Derenthal; trustees, T. Healy, E. H. Alberts, William Crowley; recorder, E. P. Johnson; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1911—President, August Derenthal; trustees, Archie Holets, Thomas Healy, William Crowley; recorder, E. P. Johnson; treasurer, John Wendorf.

1912—President, August Derenthal; trustees, Thomas Healy, C. H. Devilliers, E. H. Alberts; recorder, E. P. Johnson; treasurer, E. L. Behring; assessor, W. F. Krueger; justices, A. H. Fligge, P. Hoffman.

Wykoff Water Works. April 25, 1899, the village voted bonds to the amount of $7,000 to construct a water works system. A system of four-inch pipe was installed covering the principal streets. The pipe which was known as "spiral riveted" proved unsatisfactory, and on June 6, 1899, the village again voted bonds to the amount of $1,477.00, and a contract was awarded to Jackson & Moss for the amount of the bonds, to complete and extend the system. At present a seven horsepower boiler supplies power to run the pumps.

Prominent Citizens. Among the prominent citizens of Wykoff may be mentioned: Marvin Eggleston, Fred Wendorf, John Wendorf, F. H. Bartlett, Jacob Rau, P. R. Jorris, S. Thoeni, E. D. Bartlett, W. G. Banks, J. R. Murrel, George Rau, August Derenthal, C. F. Schatz, A. G. Spies, D. C. Green, Edward Langan, C. M. Allen, C. J. Spies, and many others.

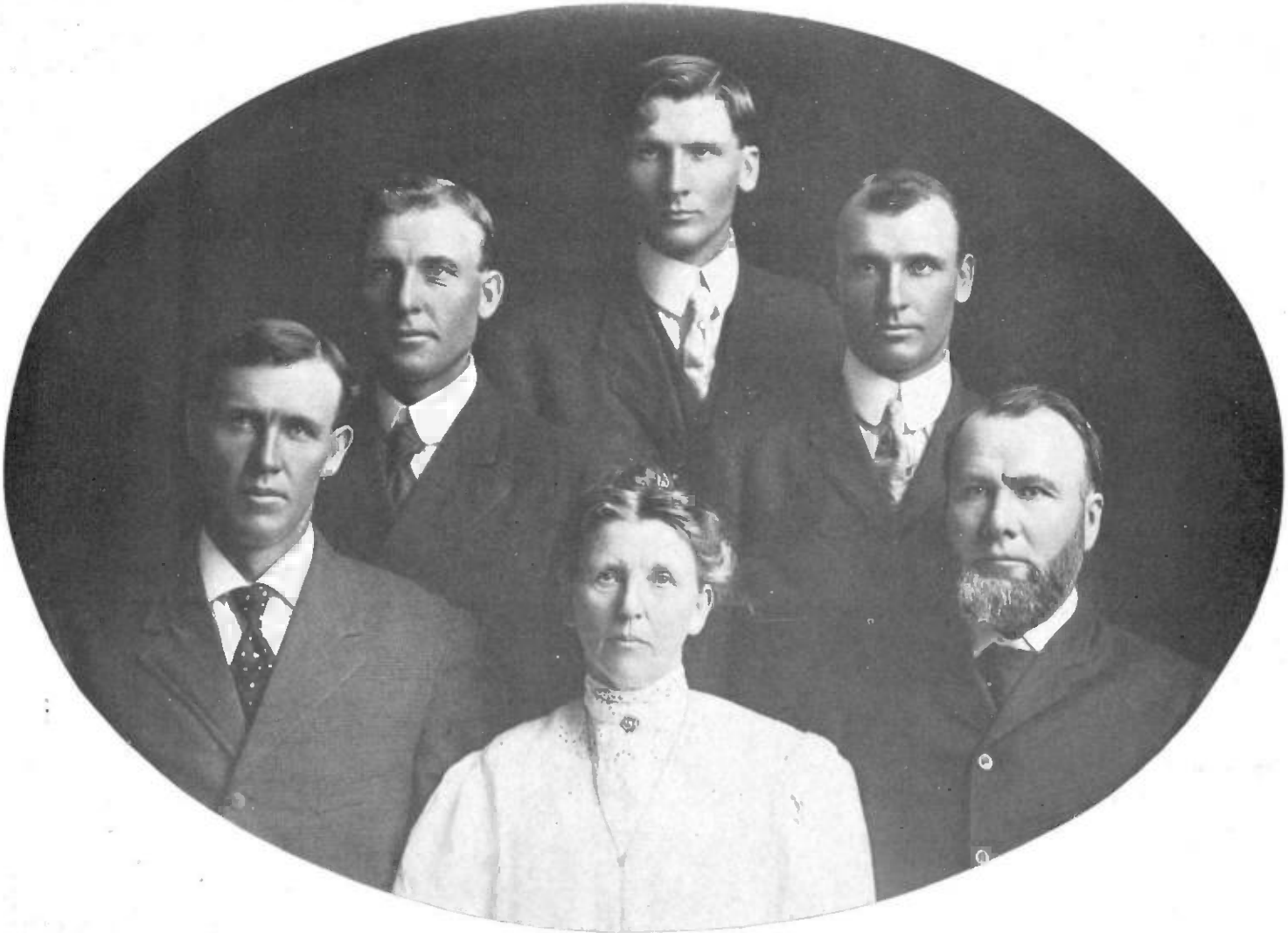
CHAPTER XXXII.

JORDAN AND SUMNER.

Sumner Township—Its Early History—Hamilton Village—Washington Village—Jordan Township and Village—Land Office Records—Incidents of the Early Days.

Sumner township is in the northwestern part of the county, with Olmsted county on the north, Mower county on the west, Jordan township on the east and Spring Valley township on the south. The township is noted for its excellent springs and for its fine groves of natural timber. The western part is made up of level prairie, interspersed with a few groves, while the western and southern parts, although now, as a rule, under a high state of cultivation, at the time of first settlement was covered with hazel brush and "oak openings." The soil is generally a rich, dark loam, varying from twelve to forty inches in depth, with a subsoil of blue clay, limestone sand, or gravel. In the extreme southwestern part of the town the soil has an apparent tendency to sandiness, with a gravel subsoil, but this is confined to very few sections. The town is well watered by various brooks, creeks, and the Root river. The latter stream winds in and out along the southern line of the town, making its final exit through section thirty-six into Jordan township. The Kedron brook derives its source in section eighteen, and flowing in a southeasterly direction mingles its waters with those of Root river. Various other small brooks, arising from the numerous springs, flow into the larger branches. The southern part of the town is rolling, and in places towering bluffs rear themselves to a height of 300 feet. All this region is well adapted to stock raising. The balance of the town is composed of prairie land and oak openings, the soil being very fertile and suitable for all kinds of grain raising and agriculture. The town's area constitutes the full thirty-six sections of a government township, and in addition to this, one and one-half sections cut from the northwest corner of Spring Valley, making thirty-seven and one-half sections.

Early Settlement. The first settlement in this township was made by the Hayes party in 1853, and arrived about the middle of May. The entire party who settled that month consisted of three persons, H. S. H. Hayes, David Allen, and D. D. Fraser.



CYRUS L. WOOLDRIDGE AND FAMILY.

H. S. H. Hayes came from New Hampshire, and arrived in Sumner May 25, 1853. He took a claim in sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight. David Allen arrived at the same time from New York, and located on sections thirty-three and thirty-four. D. D. Fraser, another of the party to arrive at the same time, came from Ohio, and located a claim in section thirty-two, where he lived for five or six years, and moved out of the township. Deacon Gulielmus Carter arrived later in the same year, landing in Sumner in October. Daniel Davis also made his appearance on the scene late in the same year, and secured himself an excellent farm on section twenty. The balance of the year was spent by the hardy pioneers without interruption and almost in solitude.

1854—Among those who arrived this year were J. O. Stout, C. O. Comstock, Philo Bradley, John E. King, Darius Comstock, S. C. Jolley and C. Millet.

1855—Among those who came this year were S. G. Keck, W. W. Parkinson and many others.

Items of Interest. Kedron postoffice was established in 1869 in the southeastern corner of section seventeen. W. D. Bradford was appointed postmaster when the office was first established, and held the office for a number of years. Geo. Hood received the appointment in 1877, and retained the office for a few months, when H. S. Smith was appointed. It was discontinued soon after. It was again opened in section sixteen in the nineties. G. H. Cleveland was the last postmaster. A Good Templar lodge was instituted at Sumner Center in 1874, but finally disbanded from lack of interest. A Grange was also instituted in 1873, and failed, donating its funds, as did the Good Templars above mentioned, to a public library, which was organized in 1879. In 1857, Sumner was an election precinct, and the polls were open in Martin Ricker's house. A Friends' Society was partially organized about 1856, and the first services were held on section thirty-three. In 1874, the Quakers erected their church edifice on section thirty-four. Sumner cemetery is in the southern part of section twenty-eight, and was set apart for a burial ground in 1862. The first burials here were the remains of Ernest Gove, a child of C. B. Gove, and the wife of W. W. Beers, who died in April, 1863. The ground was purchased of G. A. Hayes. Sumner was named by the earliest settlers in the town in honor of an act of Charles Sumner. H. S. H. Hayes was the first justice of the peace in Sumner, receiving his commission from the governor in 1854. The first marriage was performed by H. S. H. Hayes on February 4, 1855, the contracting parties being David Allen and Sepha Ann Carter. The first birth in Sumner was a son of the above named parties, David and Sepha Ann Allen, and took place November 18, 1855. The son was christened Frederick Tristram

Allen. Another early marriage was that of Caleb O. Comstock to Miss C. E. Carter, at the residence of the bride's parents on section thirty-two.

The first death was that of Mrs. Joshua Stears, who died in October, 1856.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Sumner township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located. August. 4, Samuel Hayes, 28; September 14, Isaac Corkeeff, 21; September 14, William Jolly, 20; September 21, David Allen, 33-34; September 22, O. Comstock, 30.

Those who obtained land in 1855 were as follows: January 25, Jonathan Williams, 12; January 29, Moses E. Flint, 2; January 29, Major Flint, 1; April 26, James Williams, 12; April 26, Nicholas Williams, 9; May 5, Andrew Donaldson, 21; May 18, Samuel J. Harrison, 27; May 18, George Terrell, 35; May 25, William Baning, 25-26; May 28, Charles F. Hardy, 34; May 30, Martin Ricker, 21; June 6, Darius Comstock, 35; June 6, Hugh Morcland, 10; June 6, David Steel, 33; June 6, Greenberry P. Steere, 34; June 6, Isaac Steere, 28-33; June 6, Johnson A. Stout, 34; June 6, Joseph B. Stout, 33; June 7, Gulielmus Carter, 29; June 7, Gulielmus Carter, 32; June 30, Thomas J. Connelly, —; July 16, Sally B. Gove, 32; July 26, Elnathan Welch, 12; August 21, Charles A. Loger, 32; October 1, Orson M. Annis, 11; October 1, Horace H. Bandle, 1; October 6, Isaac Besst, 22; October 6, Jackson Coggshall, 22; October 13, Richard Hawkins, 15; October 18, Henry Plummer, 27-34; October 18, Henry Shaw, 22; October 20; George W. Westover, 15; October 29, Hiram Sweet, 1; November 7, Wiliam H. Barlow, 17; November 8, George W. Bradley, 13; November 9, Horatio S. H. Hayes, 21-22; November 9, Mathew Mawer, 27-28; November 9, Ethan A. Tedman, 25; November 12, Thomas Mitchell, 13; November 14, Hiram Blakeslee, 13; November 15, Charles Myers, 11; November 29, Mathew Mawer, 27; December 11, Henry Startwell, 2; December 11, Ephraim Steffens, 30; December 11, John F. White, 31; December 11, Uriah Williams, 14-23; December 14, Robert Overand, 3-4.

Political. The organization of the town of Sumner was effected on May 11, 1858. The first town meeting was held on that day at the house of T. W. Cocorey, and the records show that William B. Melvin was made chairman, pro. tem., of the meeting, and C. D. Sherwood, moderator. Walter S. Booth was then elected town clerk. Henry Plummer and H. P. Sleeper were made clerks of election, and William B. Melvin, I. M. Choate and William H. Doane were judges of election. The sum of $150 was

appropriated for town purposes, and it was voted that horses and cows could run at large, but sheep and hogs were restricted of that freedom. The following officers were then elected, all of whom served, to-wit: Supervisors, C. D. Sherwood (chairman), C. W. Knight and James H. Tedman; town clerk, D. T. Booth; assessor, John Jolley; collector, W. T. Horton; overseer of the poor, L. Chamberlain; constables, D. C. Hendershott and W. H. Clarno; justices of the peace, C. Brownell and W. S. Booth. It was decided to hold the next town meeting at the house of Martin Richer. There were 140 votes polled. The town now has a hall in section 15.

Hamilton Village. This village, which is now only a memory, was situated in the southwestern part of Sumner township, its town plat extending to the boundary line of Mower county, occupying portions of sections six and thirty. Adjoining the old town site are the "Hamilton springs," that continue boiling up, fresh, clear and sparkling water, both summer and winter, at the rate of 1,500 gallons per minute. The first house erected was put up in 1853, by Adam Zedygar. In 1855, Daniel Booth, from the New England states, arrived, and had the village of Hamilton platted and recorded. Immediate steps were taken to secure a postoffice, in which they succeeded, and in 1856, an office was established under the name of "Elkhorn," and Jacob McQuillan was appointed to handle the mails. Charles Davis arrived in 1855. Booth & Randall made their appearance, and put in a $3,000 stock of goods. A blacksmith shop was started in 1856, and the town for a number of years "boomed." Several sawmills were erected and put in operation, besides a custom gristmill. The postoffice outlived the village, but has now been discontinued, W. J. Briggs being the last postmaster. The patrons receive their mail by rural route from Spring Valley.

Hamilton, in the year 1858, had a gang of organized thieves. They would steal anything that could be carried off, but made horses a specialty. The gang was made up almost entirely of home talent, and it was with the utmost difficulty that the honest members of the community ridded themselves of the pest, by organizing what was termed a "vigilance committee." Upon one occasion this last mentioned association turned out, and after collecting the population of the village together, made the announcement that as they had received sufficient evidence as to those who had been committing depredations, they are now prepared to "lynch" those who had been implicated. At this one hundred shooting arms were brought into view. Imagine their surprise when a number of the most influential citizens broke from among the crowd and made for the woods. But this matter, as it involved not only Hamilton and the town of Sumner, but also this

entire portion of the country, is dealt with in the county article.

Washington Village. This is a locality in section 36, Sumner township. The early settlement of the hamlet was commenced in 1855, Rider & Wolfe, of Indiana, putting up the first building. The village was laid out and recorded in 1856, by John H. Maine. In 1858, the first store building was erected by Joseph Bongardner, and he placed a stock of goods on the shelves. A post-office was established in 1859 with J. H. Tedman, as postmaster. The last postmaster was P. J. Palmer. The patrons now receive their mail from Spring Valley.

JORDAN TOWNSHIP.

Jordan township is on the northern tier of towns in Fillmore county, the second from the western boundary. Its neighbors are Olmsted county on the north, Chatfield on the east, Fillmore on the south and Sumner on the west. The middle branch of the Root river enters the town in section thirty-four, and runs diagonally to leave it from section twenty-four. Lost creek runs across the northern part. In the soil there is quite a variety. The western part is a rolling prairie with a rich clay soil on a limestone foundation. The larger part of the northeast quarter is timber land, owned by a number of non-residents and so it is cut up in many small lots of five acres, with some more and some less. In the early history of the county this was the "Woods" where people came, sometimes thirty miles for supplies, and it was no uncommon thing to see one hundred teams a day on this errand. In addition to the rivers already mentioned, there is Jordan creek, with three branches converging from the south and west, to form a conference with the Root river before it leaves the town. Bear creek also sweeps around into section thirty-one. Lost creek has several branches coming from near the town of Sumner. In low stages of water this creek loses itself in the ground. There is a large spring on section seven that starts Ferguson's creek and joins its fate in section eight with Lost creek. It will thus be seen that Jordan is a well watered township. There was considerable rock maple along these creeks when the town was first settled and sugar was made to some extent and is still. The soil is inclined to be black loam and is everywhere productive. This is especially so in the Root river valley.

Early Settlement. The occupation of this town was commenced in 1853. John and Joseph Maine came in the spring of that year from New England. John found a place that suited him in section thirty-two, and cultivated it for five years, afterward going to Iowa. Joseph secured some land in section twenty-eight and thirty-three, but soon sold out. Thomas Mawer, an English-

URIAH WILLIAMS

man, came from Michigan and secured a home in section twenty, and lived there for ten years when he died. Mathew Mawer, a brother of Thomas, took a claim in section thirty-three, but went to California, and in 1859 died there. George W. Hare, from New York State, who had made a transient stay in Illinois, arrived in November and planted himself in section thirty-one. Thomas Tabor, a native of England, came from Canada and located in section thirty-two. Later he sold and went to Fillmore, locating still later in Pembina, Dakota.

Among other early settlers were the following:

1854—George Bawer and son, B. Winans, F. P. Bowers.

1855—John Tabor, A. Finley, William Finlay, A. Palmer, Jacob Oakey, Joseph Marshall, T. C. Linton, Isaac Green, G. Doty, S. Wilson, W. P. Odell, A. Finley, Jr., Thomas Brooks, William Carpenter, Edwin Pettis, Peter Loughrey, Charles W. Tabor, David Greiner, John D. Biggs, G. W. Biggs, Ned Tindall, William Cordell, Daniel M. Collum, Richard Malone.

1856—John Murphy, E. Pettis, Henry McConville.

1857—William Greiner.

1858—C. Farrington and sons, E. V. and G. M.

Early Events of Interest. A Mr. Keck and two daughters died in November, 1855, and were buried the same week in the Jordan cemetery. These must have been the first deaths in the township after the arrival of white settlers. Thomas Mann and Elizabeth Finley were united in marriage in March, 1855. John Tabor and Ann Mawer were married in August, 1855. William Clark and Susanna McCollum contracted wedlock in August, 1855. Mathew Mawer and Nancy Finley were married in January, 1856. Mathew Tabor, son of James and Annie Tabor, was born March 4, 1855. Ira Hare, son of G. W. and Amanda Hare, was born March 24, 1855.

Land Office Records. The first titles to land in Jordan township were issued by the government in 1854. Those who obtained land that year were as follows, the date of the issuance of the warrant being given first, then the name of the owner and then the section in which the land was largely located: January 29, Salem Town, 10; September 9, Andrew J. Bolsinger, 11; September 9, Isaac Day, 2; September 9, Isaac Decow, 2; September 9, John R. Jones, 2; September 9, Finley V. Miller, 12; September 9, Refine W. Twitchell, 3; September 9, Henry C. Wheeler, 1; September 20, Marvin Harwood, 6; September 21, Asher H. Palmer, 33; September 23, Samuel M. Herrick, 2; September 28, David N. Morse, 10; October 4, William H. Peck, 11-12; October 12, Andy Gold, 1; October 18, Charles Wilian, 14-15; October 18, Samuel A. Sturges, 13; October 27, Enoch Winslow, 35; November 1, William Bly, 10; November 1, David Jaggers, 3; November 1,

Albert A. Ripley, 1; November 25, Joseph Ripley, 1; December 12, Edward H. Coffin, 15; December 12, Erastus J. Way, 15.

Political. May 11, 1858, the town of Jordan was organized with the following officers in charge: Supervisors, J. M. Gillis (chairman), John D. Biggs and John Murphy; clerk, John Mawer; assessor, Jacob Oakey; justices of the peace, George W. Biggs and J. M. Gillis; constables, C. B. Beverstock and Ned Tindall; collector, G. W. Biggs; overseer of the poor, William Cordell. At this first meeting the judges of election were: Jacob Oakey, Dan McCallum and James Tabor; clerks of election, J. M. Gillis and C. M. Tindall. For about twenty years town meetings were held in schoolhouses, but in 1877 a town hall was constructed at a cost of $1,000. The name of the town was derived from Jordan Creek, which was given this designation by John Maine, one of the first settlers in town. The neighborhood of the stream is known as Jordan Valley.

Postoffices—Jordan. This was established as early as 1854, with Asher Palmer in charge, and the office was at his house on the southwest quarter of section twenty-eight. In about one year the office went to the store of J. M. Gillis. In 1856 it was removed to the town of Fillmore. Another office was established a few years afterwards on section sixteen, and I. Day was postmaster. It was at first called Bear Creek. Afterwards the name was changed to "Iday" in honor of its first postmaster. Mr. Saunders was the last one to handle the mails, in 1863.

Jordan Village. This was laid out in 1855, on the northeast quarter of section thirty-two and the southeast half of the southeast of section twenty-nine. J. M. Gillis opened a store there, and kept it going for about a year. At the same time there was a blacksmith shop put up, but the fire in its forge was never kindled, because the village never materialized.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY.

Beginning of State System—Summary of Present Schools—School Progress—First Districts Created—The First Schools—Starting of the Various Districts—City and Village Schools—Early Spelling Schools—Prepared with the Assistance of Professor Oscar Carlson—Edited by Mrs. John C. Mills.

In the story of American civilization, the establishment of the school and the church has been coincident with the building of home. However, at the formation of the Union, and later, when the federal government was established, there was no definite line of action as to public education, although at the same time that the constitution was adopted the last session of the continental congress was being held in the city of New York, and the ordinance of 1787 was passed, regulating the affairs pertaining to the Northwest territory, including that portion of Minnesota lying east of the Mississippi river. In this ordinance much attention was given to the question of providing a means of public education, by giving one section in each congressional township for educational purposes. Later, when the purchase of Louisiana was effected, and Minnesota sought admission into the Union, still further provision was made for education by giving two sections in each congressional district for such purposes. This gave impetus to the natural tendency toward educational matters, and we find that one of the first efforts in the new settlements was to prepare to educate the children. The church and the school building, when not one and the same, were practically always found side by side. The hardy pioneers of the Great Northwest—of which Minnesota was a part—did not wait even for a territorial government, but set to work at once to establish schools. The first one in Minnesota, for the education of white children, was organized by Dr. T. S. Williamson, at the present site of the city of St. Paul. We are told that investigation demonstrated that there were about thirty-six children in the settlement who might attend a school. A log house, 10x12 feet, covered with bark and chinked with mud, previously used as a blacksmith shop, was secured and converted into a schoolhouse, and taught by Harriet E. Bishop. Here, then, while the United

States troops were gaining such signal success in the war with Mexico was begun the system of education which has become one of the best in this great nation. In this same little schoolhouse, in November, 1849, was held a meeting for the purpose of establishing a system of public education, based upon the congressional act of March, 1849, establishing Minnesota territory. Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, when appointed governor, proceeded at once to assume the duties of his office. In his first message to the territorial legislature, in the fall of 1849, he emphasized the need of wise measures looking to the establishment of a system of public education in these words: "The subject of education, which has ever been esteemed of first importance in all new American communities, deserves, and I doubt not, will receive your earliest and most devoted care. From the pressure of other and more immediate wants it is not to be expected that your school system should be very ample, yet it is desirable that whatever is done should be of a character that will readily adapt itself to the growth and increase of the country, and not in future years require a violent change of system."

In response to this appeal for legislation in school matters, we find that a committee on education was appointed, and a very able report was made by the chairman, Hon. Martin McLeod. This report was formulated into an act relating to public schools in Minnesota, which act was passed in the last day of the session, November 1, 1849. Tax levy was provided, and a system of management arranged. The first superintendent of common schools for the territory was Rev. E. D. Neill, who served till 1853. His salary was $100 a year.

The first school instruction in Freeborn county was given in the pioneer homes by mothers, who, though they had come to a new country, did not wish their children to grow up in ignorance.

The early comers never lost sight of the idea upon which the possibility of founding and supporting a popular government rests—the education of the children—and as fast as the children appeared and became of school age, the best possible provision, at the command of the people, was made for their schooling.

An account of the various expedients resorted to, that would meet the requirements of the circumstances, would, while sometimes laughable, reveal the struggling efforts of a determination to bestow knowledge upon the rising generation in spite of all difficulties. Schools were often kept in a log dwelling, where the school room would be partitioned off from that occupied by the family by an imaginary line. Sometimes an open shed as an annex to the house would serve the purpose in summer. The usual method was for the neighbors to get together and organize a district, and select a lot for a building. Of course each one

would want it near, but not too near, and generally there was little trouble in establishing the location, which would be with a view of accommodating the greatest number. And then to build a schoolhouse, a "bee" was the easiest way, and so plans and estimates were improvised, and each one would subscribe, one, two, three or more logs so many feet long, so many shingles, so many rafters, a door or a window, and at the appointed time the men would assemble with the material, bringing their dinner pails, and by night, if there had not been too much hilarity during the day, the building would be covered and practically completed. The benches would be benches indeed, often without backs, and sitting on one of them was about as comfortable as sitting in the stocks, that now unfashionable mode of punishment.

Schools were thus multiplied all over the country, until in the winter of 1859, the legislature passed an act making each organized township a school district, to be subdivided according to local necessities. But this plan was soon repealed and the present method adopted. The districts were numbered consecutively, beginning at a certain point, and new districts, as they have been created, have followed the order of time in numbering.

The last log schoolhouse in the county was in the Goldsmith district, south of Chatfield. That gave place about 1896 to a frame one, and this ended the use of log schoolhouses in the county.

The Present Schools. The schools in the common districts are under the immediate supervision of a board of trustees in each district, consisting of three members, the special and independent districts having a board of education, consisting of six members.

The county superintendent has general supervision of the schools in the county. It is his duty to visit the schools, advise teachers and officers as to the best method of instruction, the most improved plans for improving and ventilating schoolhouses and ornamenting school grounds; conduct teachers' and officers' meetings and make reports to the state superintendent of public instruction.

The state grants special aid to schools coming up to certain standards of requirements: $1,750 to high schools, $600 to graded schools, $300 to semi-graded schools, and $150 to first-class rural schools. Second-class rural schools open seven months receive $75 and those open eight months receive $100.

Fillmore county, at present, receives special aid for seven high schools, four graded schools, four semi-graded schools, thirty-two first-class and thirty-three second-class rural schools.

Progressive educators hopefully look forward to the time when the country girls and boys will be afforded facilities equal to the

best in the cities—when as a result of consolidation and the establishment of local agricultural, high and graded schools, no teacher will be required to teach more grades than she can handle to the best advantage, and the pupils be enabled to secure a good elementary education without leaving home. With the new law granting special aid to seven months schools, the number of schools on the state aid list is rapidly increasing.

There are 185 organized districts in the county. Of these, seven, at Rushford, Lanesboro, Preston, Harmony, Mabel, Chatfield, and Spring Valley, are city schools with first-class high schools. The Spring Valley school has in connection an agricultural department, established under the "Putnam Act" and the special state aid for this department is $2,500. The Chatfield school has an agricultural department, established under the "Benson-Lee Act," and the state aid is $1,000. At Spring Valley, Preston, and Harmony are normal departments, for the training of teachers and the special aid is $750.

There are four graded schools; located at Peterson, Fountain, Wycoff, and Canton, each with four departments. There are four semi-graded schools, at Whalan, Prosper, Granger and Ostrander, each with two departments. The others are one-room schools, fourteen of which have an enrollment of less than ten pupils, fifty-three with from ten to twenty pupils.

The largest enrollment is 51 pupils, in district 94, Fillmore township, and the smallest is 2, in district 113, Spring Valley township. The average length of school in months, for 1910-11, was eight and one half months. Eighteen schools had nine months of school. During the year 1911, 88 pupils, of the common school districts, received diplomas certifying that they had completed eighth grade studies with credit and the graduating exercises were held in Preston. During the same year, local, township, and county spelling contests were held.

Many of the schools are well equipped with those things which are required for efficient work. Many of the schoolhouses are new and the old ones are in good state of repair. Nearly all the schools have libraries and free textbooks.

The teachers' training schools and institutes which are conducted in the county do much to increase the efficiency of the teachers. These schools are paid for by the state and are conducted under the direction of the county superintendent and a conductor appointed by the superintendent of public instruction. Instruction is given in methods of teaching and in the subjects required for teachers' certificates.

School Progress. Up to 1875, Fillmore was the most populous county in the state. The next year, Hennepin county forged ahead. From the settlement of the county up to 1877 there was a

constant growth in school population. In 1877 the high-water mark was reached with 8,836 pupils in school attendance. The present attendance is 6,492.

In 1881 the state began to encourage education in the common schools with a system of state aid, which has been a wonderful boon to education throughout the state.

Thirty years ago there were practically no books for the children to read—no books of any kind furnished by the school districts. Now there are many libraries of over 150 books in the schools of the county. In the graded and high schools the average is between twelve and fifteen hundred volumes, and in the rural schools the average is between seventy-five and one hundred volumes. All the graded and high schools furnish free books to all grades of pupils, and the system of free textbooks in the rural districts is almost as complete. Twenty-five years ago only one school in the county had any system of ventilation in it. Now all the high schools, graded schools and semi-graded schools as well as several others have an excellent system of ventilation.

The rural schools are forging to the head. Basement furnaces and other approved methods of heating and ventilation are fast taking the place of the old stove in the center of the room.

Some change may also be noted in the form and style of school architecture. There are three graded or high school buildings and several rural school buildings of recent construction, carrying out the idea of light on one side of the building, and following other modern ideas of construction.

The log structure was the earliest type of a rural schoolhouse. Following this primitive structure came the conventional form of frame buildings. It was always an oblong building with windows on each side, and sometimes on one or both ends. The stove was always in the center of the room, with a raised platform on one end of the room for the teacher and her desk. This is the general form that has prevailed everywhere since the building of rural schoolhouses began.

In 1896, district No. 2, in Newburg township, voted to build a new schoolhouse, and the school board asked the assistance of K. W. Buell, county superintendent, in the drawing of plans. They had voted but $600.00 and this naturally entailed some limitations. But the board were young men and they wanted a modern building. Their desire resulted in the first "side light" school in the county. The windows are all on the north side, there is no platform to add to the number of steps a teacher must take, and the house is warmed and ventilated by a suitable furnace in the basement. The house cost, when finished, about $650.00 and the school board which had the courage at that time to break away from the traditional type of a country school-

house consisted of N. S. Nelson, A. G. Austin and P. P. Thompson.

While the officers in district 2 have the credit of being the first in the county to adopt the more modern ideas and plans, there have been several other rural schools built in the county following the same idea of side lighting, but enlarging and improving on that plan in other particulars.

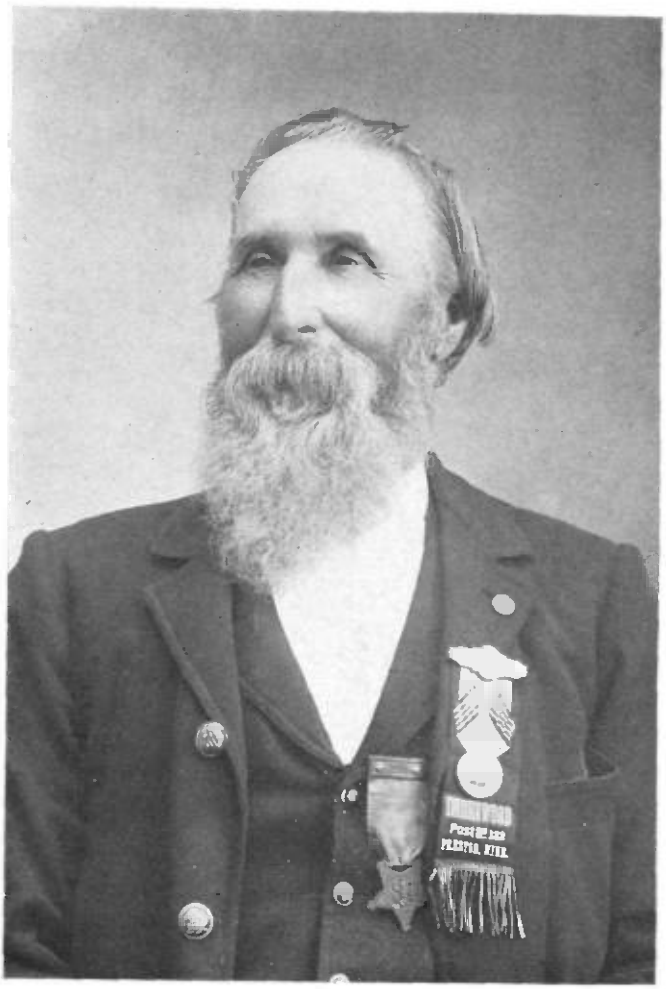
The recent buildings are at Rushford, Spring Valley and Harmony, and Lanesboro is now building an addition to the main building. In the following rural districts new schoolhouses have been built in recent years: District 11, Preble; 27, Amherst; 58, Pilot Mound; 124, Sumner; 129, Preston, and 180, Bloomfield.

The best types of the more modernized schoolhouses are found in district 136, Preston; district 131, Bristol; in the two-room building north of Prosper; in districts 124, Sumner; 180, Bloomfield; 27, Amherst; 11, Preble, and 58, Pilot Mound. These buildings are side lighted and warmed and ventilated with a furnace system.

To the village of Mabel belongs the credit of erecting the first modern styled graded school building in the county. The modern, single lighted graded schools in the county are at Peterson, Preston, Prosper, Mabel, Harmony and Rushford.

A marked evolution in the school work of the county is seen in the efforts now made to give the teachers some special training for their work. At the time of retiring from office, twenty-five years ago, Superintendent John Brady spoke of the teachers' associations and teachers' institutes and how inadequate they were to accomplish the work of the teachers' special preparation. Up to the year 1889, the only special training the rural school teachers obtained, with a very few exceptions, came through such associations. The state provided for each county a five days' institute once a year; all other means of improvement must come through the teachers' own unaided efforts. When Emma Allen, now Mrs. John C. Mills, became county superintendent of the schools of Fillmore county she observed, as Superintendent Brady had, the great need in the rural schools of a better preparation of teachers than was then afforded. In July, 1889, Mrs. Mills organized the first training school for teachers ever held in the county. The school was held in Spring Valley and was in session four weeks. J. T. McCleary, later congressman, and Mrs. Almira S. Beede assisted in conducting the school. It was so largely attended and the results were so thoroughly appreciated and beneficial that another school of the same nature was held in Preston the following year.

In the year 1891, the summer school idea had grown so throughout the state that the legislature of that year was prevailed upon to establish as a part of the educational system of the state, the state county summer training schools for teachers. It will



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be remembered that the first two schools of this kind the county ever had were paid for wholly by the teachers attending. Since that time the expenses of the schools are paid by county and state.

First Districts Created. The first school district established in Fillmore county was on July 9, 1853, when the Minnesota City School District was created. This was outside of the present limits of the county.

The first school district established within the present limits of Fillmore county was district 2, as it was then known. This was created on April 7, 1854. Four districts were created on that day in the order named below:

Second District—This district, created at the request of W. E. Picket, embraced sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, in what is now Carimona township (102-11).

Third District—This district was created at the request of James M. Sumner and R. M. Foster, and embraced sections 6, 7 and 18 in what is now Carimona (102-11) and sections 1, 12 and 13 in what is now Forestville (102-12).

Fourth District—This district was created at the request of J. W. Elliot and consisted of all the present township of Harmony and the western half of what is now the township of Canton.

First District—This district was created at the request of James McClelland, Jr., and consisted of what are now Jordan (104-12) and Chatfield (104-11) and the two townships north of this in what is now Olmsted county (105-11 and 105-12).

School lands consisted of sections 16 and 36 in each township. On November 7, 1854, the commissioners passed an act that all persons then living on school lands should give a bond in the penal sum of $500.00 as an evidence of their intention to purchase the land when it came on the market, and the county clerk was instructed to bring suit against anyone cutting wood on school land or in any way impairing the value of such land.

The school districts were rearranged January 2, 1855.

District 1. This district, established at the request of Joseph Bisby and others, contained sections 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18 in Carimona (102-11) and sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Forestville (102-12). The district was altered later in the day to contain the west halves of sections 5, 8 and 17, and all of 6, 7 and 18 in Carimona and sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Forestville.

District 2 consisted of sections 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 and 35 in Spring Valley (103-13).

District 3 took in sections 3 and 4, the east half of 5 and the east half of 8, and the east half of 17, and all of 9, 10, 15 and 16 in Carimona (102-11).

District 4 took in sections 6 and 7 in Newburg (101-8), sec-

tions 30 and 31 and the west halves of sections 29 and 32 in Preble (102-8), sections 1 and 12, Canton (101-9) and sections 25 and 36 in Amherst (102-9).

District 5 consisted of territory in township 105, ranges 11 and 12, outside the present limits of Fillmore county.

District 6 took in the east halves of sections 5, 8 and 17, and all of sections 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 in Chatfield (104-11).

Chatfield district took in the west halves of 5 and 8 and all of 6 and 7 in Chatfield (104-11) and sections 1 and 12 in Jordan (104-12) as well as a few sections to the north in what is now Olmsted county.

District 7 was created February 20, 1855, at the request of John H. Main. It embraced sections 3, 4, 5 and 6 in township 103-12, (now Fillmore); and sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 19, 20, 21 and 22, in 104-13 (now Jordan).

District 8 was created April 3, 1855. It embraced the east half of section 32 and the west half of section 33, in 102-8 (now Preble), and sections 5, 8, 17 and 18, and the west halves of sections 4, 9 and 16, in 101-8 (now Newburg).

District 9 was created April 3, 1855 and embraced sections 19, 30 and 31 in 102-10 (now Preston), and sections 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36 in 102-11 (now Carimona).

District 10 was created April 3, 1855 and consisted of sections 27, 28, 33 and 34 in 103-11 (now Fountain).

District 6 was dissolved April 3, 1855, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 in 104-11 (now Chatfield) were added to the Chatfield village district. However the act was doubtless passed without due thought, for the west halves of sections 5 and 7, and all of sections 6 and 7 were already in Chatfield district.

District 11 was created July 2, 1855, and consisted of sections 5, 4 and the west half of 3 in 101-9 (now Canton), and sections 32, 33, and the west half of 34 in 102-9 (now Amherst).

Before the close of 1855, sixteen numbered school districts and one village school had been created.

January 12, 1856, a tax having been collected in Fillmore county, it was voted by the county board to allow $1.00 for each scholar in actual attendance in the regularly organized district schools of the county. The report rendered from the different clerks showed the following scholars in the various districts: Chatfield, 79; District 1, 48; District 3, 24; District 4, 51; District 7, 63; District 8, 31; District 9, 50; District 10, 27; District 12, 33. Although various claims are made as to schools in various parts of the county in the early days, these few were the only ones who presented any claim for county funds, and it is fairly safe to say, were the only schools in existence in Fillmore county in the closing months of 1855.

Before January 1, 1857, the numbered districts in the county totalled 51, and in addition there was one unnumbered district, Chatfield, making 52 in all.

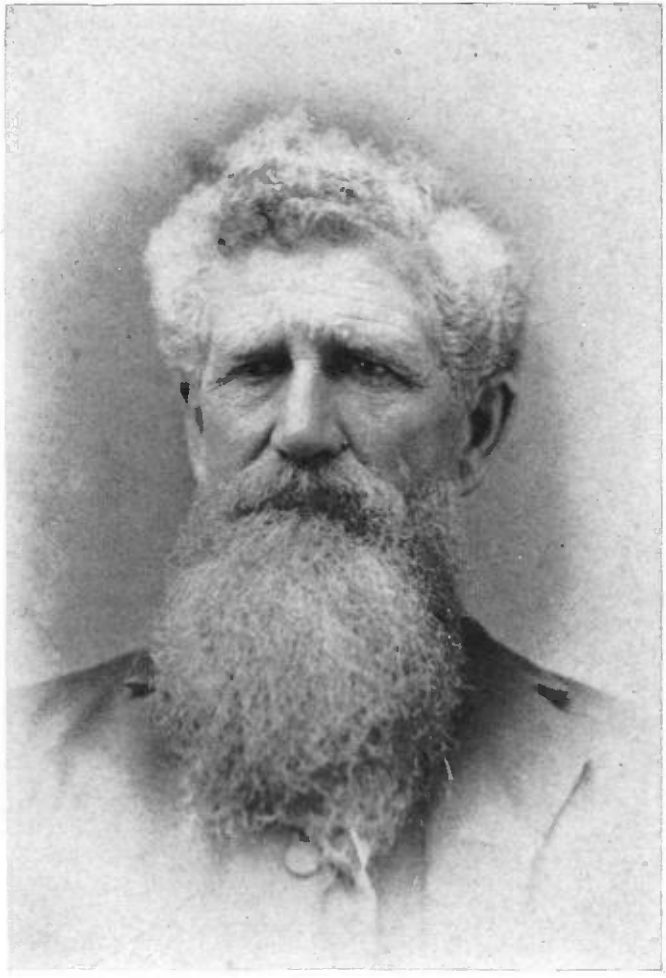
The First Schoolhouse. William Willford is the author of a pamphlet dealing with the first structure built exclusively for school purposes in Fillmore county. From this pamphlet the following information has been gathered.

In Fillmore county, fifty years ago, the establishment of schools and places for stated religious meetings were coeval with the formation of every settlement, or at least attended to as soon as the pioneers had secured proper shelter for themselves in inclement weather, and provided their families with the means of daily subsistence. The schoolhouses, like the primitive cabins, were roughly constructed, but in some of them, men whose mental endowments and ripe scholarship have raised them to eminence in after life, received the first rudiments of education.

Early in the spring of 1854, the early settlers residing in the northeast part of township 101, range 9, (Canton) the south half of township 102, range 9, (Amherst) and the northwest part of township 101, range 8, (Newburg) made arrangements with Elijah Austin who resided on the west half of section 11, 101, 9, (Canton) to get their mail once a week from Burr Oak postoffice in Winneshiek county, Iowa, which was on the Brink & Walker stage route from Dubuque to St. Paul until a postoffice could be established and a postmaster appointed on Richland Prairie, Minnesota. In April of that year, a number of settlers who had families, happened to meet at the residence of Elijah Austin at the same time to receive mail, when one of the settlers brought up the subject of doing something toward the establishment of a school. After a general discussion of the subject, a day was agreed upon to meet to locate a site for a schoolhouse, and make the necessary arrangements for the erection of a building. On the day set for the meeting at the residence of Elijah Austin, about all the settlers residing near where Lenora now stands were present, their names and place of residence being as follows: Ethan P. Eddy, section one, township 101, range 9, pioneer of 1853; William Bly, section six, 101, 8, pioneer of 1853; Andrew W. Gray, section six, 101, 8, pioneer of 1853; Thomas Gilbert, Sr., section one, 101, 9, pioneer of 1854; Nelson Darling, section eleven, 101, 9, pioneer of 1853; Austin Eastman, section fourteen, 101, 9, pioneer of 1854; Warren J. Howell, section ten, 101, 9, pioneer of 1854; Silas Pennock, section ten, 101, 9, pioneer of 1854; Elijah Austin, section eleven, 101, 9, pioneer of 1853; —— Church, section fifteen, 101, 9, pioneer of 1853; —— Benham, section eleven, 101, 9 pioneer of 1853; B. F. Tillotson, section four, 101, 9, pioneer of 1853; Michael Onstine, Sr., section thirty-five, 102, 9, pioneer of

1853; T. J. Eames, section nine, 101, 9, pioneer of 1853. The site selected was on the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section eleven, 101, 9, where the village of Lenora now stands, being on land then claimed by Elijah Austin. The size of the house agreed upon was twenty feet wide by twenty-six feet long. An estimate was then made of the number of logs and the material required to build the house. An assessment was made on each person for material to be furnished on the ground, giving the number of logs, size and length that each man had to deliver. Also, a small fee in cash was assessed on each man to buy windows, boards for floor, ceiling and door, nails, and the like. When the material had been delivered on the ground, a day was appointed for the raising. On that day, when the pioneers had collected for the raising, the first thing done was the election of four good axemen for corner men, as they were called, whose business it was to notch the logs the rest of the company furnished them, with the timbers on the building. In the meantime, the logs that were furnished for the clapboards were sawed the proper lengths, and split with a frow for the roof. The door was made by cutting an opening about three feet wide in the east end, near the northeast corner, and made secure by upright pieces of timber about three inches thick through which holes were bored into the ends of the logs for the purpose of pinning them fast. Openings were cut in the sides of the buildings for windows. Two windows, eight by ten glass, with twelve lights in each window, were placed on each side of the house in a horizontal position, the two windows meeting in the center, making the glass space twenty-four inches in height, and eighty inches in length on each side.

The lumber for the door, floor and ceiling was sawed by Mr. Morse, the owner of a small sawmill on the Iowa river, at Bluffton, in Winneshiek county, Iowa. The work was pushed forward rapidly, with Ethan P. Eddy (who was a carpenter) as the architect. Soon the house was ready for the furniture, such as writing desks, seats, and the like. The writing desks were placed on the sides of the building to obtain the light from the windows. They were made by boring two-inch auger holes in one of the logs on each side of the building, about two feet and nine inches from the floor, at an angle, so that the inner edge of the desk was about three inches lower than the outer. Hardwood sticks was driven tightly in the auger holes and projected out from the wall far enough to support the desk board, which was about fourteen inches wide. On the top of the desk board next to the wall, a four-inch strip was nailed on a level, on which the pupils could place their ink bottles. The seats were made of small basswood trees, cut about twelve feet long and split; the flat side



MRS. AND MRS. VITAL LE FEVERE

dressed smooth with the axe and drawing knife. In these seat-pieces were one-and-one-half inch holes bored to receive the legs which were driven in from the round side, and cut off to make the seat the proper height from the floor. The pupils, when engaged in writing, had their faces turned towards the wall, or side of the house, and when not engaged in writing had their faces turned to the center of the school room and making use of the edge of the desk board as a rest to their backs.

No doubt the youth of the twentieth century, who are attending school in magnificent buildings furnished with the best of modern school furniture, may think this description of a schoolhouse and furniture in Fillmore county fifty years ago of a fictitious nature, but, nevertheless, we know it to be the unvarnished truth. The pupils, fifty years ago, had good backs and plenty of good backbone, which was needed in the early fifties to make good territorial pioneers.

After the desks and seats were made, the cracks between the logs were filled with split sticks and plastered with lime and sand mortar, which completed the building. This schoolhouse stood alone on the high rolling land of Richland Prairie, which was very pleasant and beautiful in the summer time, but bleak and cold in the winter season, and some what remote from water, so that the scholars had to go more than a half a mile to obtain water to quench their thirst. To guard against the children getting lost on the prairie, when going to and returning from school, some of the settlers plowed a furrow from their place of residence over the prairie to the schoolhouse to guide the children. Immediately after the completion of the schoolhouse, a three-months term of school was commenced, which was the first school conducted in a schoolhouse built in Fillmore county. It was taught by Lucinda Miller, now Mrs. L. M. Onstine, of Chatfield, in the summer of 1854. When Miss Miller contracted to teach this school, she agreed to board around with the scholars as was customary in the country schools at that time. There were thirty scholars that attended this term of school. They were: Lucinda A. Church, 12 years; Harriet L. Austin, 9; Ira A. Church, 9; Isaac A. Benham, 10; William A. Church, 7; George N. Benham, 7; Elijah Austin, 13; James A. Austin, 11; Mary C. Benham, 4; Judson Bly, 8; Henry Tillotson, 9; Cyrus Tillotson, 7; Maria Darling, 13; James M. Darling, 7; Emily Darling, 11; Marietta Pennock, 16; Clarissa E. Eddy (Gilmore) 8; Celia E. Eddy (Streator) 6; James Gilbert, 9; John Gilbert, 8; Mary Gray (Cody) 6; Josephine Gray (Ham) 4; Oscar Streator, 10; Hannah Onstine (Willford) 13; Sarah Onstine. (Kellogg) 11; Rebecca Onstine (Rising) 7; Edwin Darling, 15; Albert Darling, 14; Phoebe A. Pennock (Goudy) 11.

The second term of school in the Richland Prairie schoolhouse was three months in the winter of 1854 and 1855, Warren J. Howell, later a member of the Minnesota territorial legislature being the teacher. The third term was of three months in the summer of 1855, Mary Ann Peacock being the teacher. The fourth term was also of three months, commencing on December 11, 1855, and closing March 9, 1856. The teacher was William Willford, who received eighteen dollars for a month of twenty-one teaching days and boarded himself.

First School in Organized District. What is said to have been the first school in an organized district in Fillmore county was then in Forestville village, taught in 1855. The district is now No. 90. January 2, 1855, this district became No. 1. Before this school had been taught in the home of Joseph Bisby, in North Forestville, by his daughter, Minerva Bisbee. This was a select school. In 1855 a log schoolhouse was erected in South Forestville, and the teachers there were Leonard Bonesteele, and Maria Flynn. In 1856 a brick shoolhouse was built in section 13, the foundations of which are still standing. This schoolhouse was erected from brick burned in the first brick yard in Fillmore county, John Gill having been secured from Ohio for the express purpose of making brick for the schoolhouse and for the Foster & Meighen store and the Felix Meighen home. The first teacher in this brick schoolhouse was Milford Benham. Mr. Benham later took a claim in Carimona township. He is still living and not long ago visited the old settlers of Fillmore county some of whom were his pupils. This school reached its height in the late sixties under the tuition of Robert B. Brown, at which time it was known as the best school in the county. The story of his coming here is most interesting. Major D. E. Runals, who was a clerk in the Forestville store enlisted in the Union army and was wounded while acting as orderly for Col. Bishop. In the hospital he was placed near a young man of his own age, who was also wounded, and during their confinement in the hospital a warm friendship sprang up between them. They accordingly agreed to attend school together in New York state after the war. In 1866 Mr. Brown came to Forestville to visit Mr. Runals, and was entertained in the house of Felix Meighen. Mr. Meighen took a liking to the young man and persuaded him to stay and teach the Forestville school. He was a college man of broad attainments, and his three terms' tuition left an impression that has never been forgotten. During his vacations he engaged in the contracting business with Charles E. Evans. He was offered the position of superintendent of county schools and principal of the Spring Valley schools, but declined both. Returning to Zanesville, Ohio, near which place he was born, he became city

editor of the "Zanesville Courier." Later he became owner and active manager. His ability attracted attention, and the soldiers in time honored him by making him commander of the Ohio department of the G. A. R. Later he became commander of the National G. A. R., and since that time has remained a national figure of considerable importance. Mr. Runals has been for many years a prominent and respected resident of Pipestone county, in this state.

Spelling Schools in Pioneer Days. After the great accession of immigrants to Fillmore county in 1856, school districts were formed in neighborhoods where the settlers were numerous enough to support a school, and log cabins were erected as schoolhouses. During the winter terms of the district schools in the southeastern part of Fillmore county in the early days of its settlement, evening spelling schools were quite common, and each district held on an average one spelling school each week. The excitement grew stronger as time passed, and soon many intensely interesting contests were held between rival schools to win the championship which was at that period of time considered an honor to the winning spellers and their teachers as well as to the districts in which the winning spellers resided. The excitement continued to grow year after year among the scholars of the different schools until the patrons of the district schools began to manifest a like interest. After the older ones had caught the infection the excitement grew to be intense. The teachers who had shown their indifference during the time the scholars and patrons of the several districts were engaged as disputants in the hotly contested spelling schools could no longer resist the temptation and resolutely joined in the melee and from this time on the battle was waged and continued to a finish. There are tricks in all trades and professions, and the teachers used this axiom in conducting the spelling school in order to win the championship for their respective schools. The spelling book used at this period of time was "Webster's Elementary Speller," which is perhaps unknown to the present generation. When a spelling school was announced to be held in a rival school district, distance was not considered, provided it did not exceed fifteen miles, and the temperature was not more than thirty-five degrees below zero. The contestants in these rival spelling schools in the early history of Fillmore county have nearly all done their work and crossed the Divide. But yet, there are left, "Old Pedagogue," the Preston Times correspondent from Partridge Creek, A. D. Gray, a prominent attorney of Fillmore county, and William Willford, proprietor of Floral Park Farm, to tell of the early days spelling schools in southeastern Fillmore county.

School Superintendent. Up to 1864 no well defined manage-

ment of schools existed. In speculating on the best system, the legislature created first a town superintendency, then an examiner for each commissioner district, and lastly one general superintendent for each county. Under this E. J. Thompson was appointed June 10, 1864, at a salary of $800. September 9, of the same year, $200 was added. At the time Mr. Thompson was appointed, 137 school districts had been created in the county. Of these, however, it is evident that only sixty-six were conducting schools at that time, for that is the number appearing in the county financial report of that year. Mr. Thompson's salary was raised from $1,000 to $1,300, and then to $1,350. He resigned April 3, 1867, and G. J. Sanderson was appointed at a salary of $1,000. In 1869, Rev. D. L. Keihle was appointed. At first the commissioners determined to pay him by the day and allow him a certain sum for each mile traveled. Later his salary was fixed at $1,200 a year. Rev. Keihle served from April 1, 1869, to July 1, 1875. When he resigned D. W. Sprague was appointed. He served until the close of 1877. John Brady was superintendent from January, 1878, to January, 1887. Emma Allen, now Mrs. John C. Mills, the only woman superintendent of the county, served from January, 1887, to January, 1891. Then K. W. Buell served until January, 1907, followed by Oscar Carlson, the present superintendent.

Early Schools. In the following summary of the schools of the various townships, no effort has been made to give a history of the districts up to the present time. Such an effort would require a volume by itself. The object in presenting the following facts is to preserve something of the beginning of each district in the county, and to relate if possible, the erecting of the first building in each district.

Summer. The first school in this township was taught in what was then district 25, in the winter of 1855-56. District 118.—This district was organized in 1864, with the following officers elected: director, Chester Hart; clerk, G. B. Hendricks, and treasurer, R. Vandel. School was first held by Polly Layman in Chester Hart's granary, and afterwards in various places until 1866, when a schoolhouse was erected in the southeast corner of section two. Prior to the organization of the district a subscription school was held in a log hut by Mary Brady, which had twelve scholars in attendance. This was in the year 1860. District 119.—This district really received its organization in 1864, but after the organizing steps were taken, matters of the district stood at one point until 1876, when the organization, in a practical sense, commenced. In the year 1876, a meeting was held at the house of Z. D. Lassell, and the following gentlemen were made officers: director, Z. D. Lassell; treasurer, Edwin Todd; clerk, W. H. Kendall. The same

spring their schoolhouse was erected in the northwest corner of section ten, and the first school taught by Martha Wooldridge. District 120.—In 1867, a meeting was held at the house of W. B. Randall, on section six, which organized this district, and the following were the first officers: treasurer, Edson Owen; director, David Jolley, and clerk, W. B. Randall. Frances Amelia Owen was the first to call school to order after the organization of the district. Their schoolhouse was erected in the southwest corner of section five, at a cost of $600. Previous to this organization a select school had been held for a number of years on section six, taught by Miss P. Stewart. District 121.—This was the first district in the township to receive organization, which was effected November, 1857, at the house of W. W. Parkinson. The officers first elected were: H. M. C. Ballow, Richard Freeman, I. M. Choate and Walter Woodmansee. The following spring $600 was appropriated to build a schoolhouse, and the contractor instead of following instructions, put up one at the cost of $1,200. This made the district considerable trouble, besides involving them in a law suit which was decided against them, the carpenter succeeded in getting judgment for the amount. The first school was taught by I. M. Choate in his house, in the winter of 1856-57. In the fall of 1858, a school was taught by Nathial Parker, the district being then known as No. 30. District 122.—The organization was effected at a meeting held in the house of Martin Ricker in 1862. The first school was taught by Ferdinand Stevens in 1863. A new schoolhouse was erected in 1874, the first floor being constructed as a town hall. District 123.—This was the second district in the town, being organized in the winter of 1857. A log house was built by subscription in 1860, which lasted until it was destroyed by fire in 1876. A brick house was erected soon after, in 1876, at a cost of $800, in the southeast corner of section fourteen. The first teacher to preside in this district was Martha Guill. District 124.—The house now in use by the citizens of this district stands in section twenty-five. District 125.—This district is claimed to have been partially organized in 1855, and a schoolhouse was erected that year, the size of which was 24x36 feet, and cost $600. A frame structure, 26x34 feet, was erected in 1869 at a cost of $800, in the eastern part of section thirty-three. The first schoolhouse built by the district was destroyed by fire. District 126. (Joint.) This flourishing district was also organized about 1857, their house being built about this time by S. P. Green, on section 30. As the trustees of the district refused to accept the building he attached it on a carpenter's lien and moved it to section 29, where it was used for religious purposes by the Methodists. Later a schoolhouse was built in the center of section 30. District 127. (Joint.) This is the Hamilton district,

and embraces the locality surrounding the hamlet. A schoolhouse erected in the hamlet at a cost of $1,000 was at one time considered the best in that part of the county.

The Bronson Institute. This institution which was designed to make Hamilton a college center was to have occupied toward Northwestern Methodism and scholarship, the same position now occupied by the Hamlin University. The institution never outgrew its infancy. A pamphlet published in 1858 says of it: "Hamilton has been fixed upon as the site of the Bronson Institute and the necessary buildings are to be erected this season. A subscription of $5,000 has already been made by private individuals, which with another $5,000 donated by the founder, Rev. Alfred Bronson, of Prairie du Chien, will be sufficient to build and furnish a suitable edifice for the purpose of this institution. It is designed to be an academical school of the first class under the control of the Methodist Episcopal denomination. The school has been opened in advance of the building in the Methodist Episcopal church by T. J. Lake and L. H. Carhart, associate teachers, and is now entered upon its third quarter. The number of pupils ranges from seventy to eighty.

Jordan District 97. This came into existence in 1855, at the house of A. Palmer, and that same year a schoolhouse was got up on section 32, which served a good purpose until it was sold in 1870, for $20. While it stood it was used for a town hall, and for a general meeting house, as well as for schools. A new house was built the last mentioned year, at a cost of about $1,800. Mrs. Maroline Whittaker was the first to commence a school in the new house. **District 98.** The earliest school here was in the house of Mrs. Mackey, on section 20, in 1858, although the district is said to have been defined in 1856. Jane Green presided over the first school. The first house was put up with logs by the people of the district, and a subscription secured the shingles and windows, the first teacher in the new schoolhouse was Sedate Pebbles. In 1876 a new one was erected of brick, with a stone foundation, the whole costing $1,400. Isaac Bergen was the man to inaugurate the brick schoolhouse. **District 99.** In 1855 this district was defined and organized, and a school building erected the first year, the farmers furnishing the logs, and all turning out on a given day and putting up the structure on section 5. Susan Rucker was the first to attempt to teach. In 1860 this schoolhouse was burned and the school was suspended until 1864, when a building on section 8 was erected. **District 100.** In the winter of 1857 a school was opened in this district, the schoolhouse being built that year in the usual way by voluntary contributions, on section 24. Jerusha W. Thatcher seems to have been the first teacher. The first building was used until 1875,

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and then a substantial brick edifice was completed at a cost of $825. District 101. The first school here was in the summer of 1858. H. T. Wilson conducted the school. The house was built of those logs. Each man in the district subscribed so many logs, so many nails, a window, a board or two, and so the house went up. This was the shortest way to get a school building, and imposed a lighter burden than any other method, and so it was usually adopted. A new building was put up here in 1870 in section 26. District 176 was created in the eighties. The schoolhouse is in the northwest part of section 10. District 179. The commissioners created this district March 7, 1893, out of districts 83, 100 and 176. It consists of sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, and the schoolhouse is in the northwest part of section 12.

Chatfield. The Chatfield Academy. This collegiate institute was incorporated February 25, 1856, and organized May 29, 1858. The trustees were H. B. Morse, J. H. McKenny, C. B. G. Jones, C. M. Lovell, Charles Wilson, Augustus Haven, Wm. B. Gere, E. D. Holt, T. J. Safford, J. R. Jones, R. W. Twitchell, G. W. Willis, F. G. Raymond, Isaac Day and C. G. Hawley. The officers were: President, J. R. Jones; secretary, H. B. Morse; treasurer, G. W. Willis; executive committee, Augustus Haven, J. H. McKenney and R. W. Twitchell. J. W. Bishop was the first principal and Miss Knights, assistant. It was opened on the first of September, 1858. As the academy filled up, new educational facilities were offered. Rev. G. W. Fuller was instructor in Latin and Greek. Drs. Isaac Cole and Luke Miller lectured on anatomy, physiology and hygiene. There were within a year sixty-two students. In March, 1869, Professor T. E. Thickston, of Pennsylvania, was appointed principal. This educational institution went on for some years, but was finally superseded by the public schools of the state. The Chatfield Graded School (district 81, joint) was organized about 1865. A schoolhouse was contracted for in 1864, and was of two stories, 24x33 feet, and cost $3,000. Another building was erected in 1879, at a cost of about $400. Primary No. 2 was erected in 1880, at a cost of $300. Thus started the present excellent school system of the city of Chatfield, which is described elsewhere. District 83. This is reported as the first district in town to be regularly organized, outside of the village, which was in the fall of 1858, with the following named officers: Director, Joseph Caw; clerk, Peter Johnson; treasurer, George W. Sawyer. In the spring of 1859 a log schoolhouse was built on land donated by Sabin Woodward, in section 17; it was 18x22 feet and cost $200. Miss Hill, later Mrs. Hanson Woodward, was the first teacher. This house was occupied up to 1872, when a brick building was constructed on section 18 at a cost of $1,500. District 82. In 1862 this district was intro-

duced into existence, with the following officers: Director, Patrick McGrand; clerk, Michael King; treasurer, Martin Breman. In the summer of 1863 the first school was gathered into the granary of Andrew Galbreath, on section 2, and Lizzie Galbreath was delegated to teach. The next winter the school was held in the house, where seventeen pupils congregated. The next spring an acre of land was procured by Thomas Parsley for $15, and a schoolhouse 18x24 feet was built on section 14. In 1876 an addition to this, 10x24 feet, was made. Laura Barber was the first to handle the ferule in the schoolhouse, with twenty-five scholars. In 1877 a new district was formed from this and called district No. 128. The headquarters of this district are in section 2, where the schoolhouse is located. The first teacher was Miss Stewart. District 84. The next district to be organized was this one, on September 11, 1859. On October 21 the officers were elected as follows: Director, Daniel S. Hoit; clerk, M. O. Camp; treasurer, R. H. Findley. A tax of $75 was levied to build a log schoolhouse, which was erected on section 27, and O. Compton was the initial teacher. In May, 1862, the number of the district was changed from a previous number to No. 84. In the spring of 1867 it was divided into two districts, the other being numbered 147. The old district built a new schoolhouse on section 25, a frame building 18x26 feet, at a cost of $600, which was completed in 1868. After the sub-division the first teacher was Mattie Shaw, in a house owned by John Jacobs. Mary King called the first school to order in the new schoolhouse. District 147 was set off as above indicated, in 1867, and the first officers were: Director, Navin Wright; clerk, D. C. Cartlich; treasurer, Thomas Sawyer. The first school was held in the house of the clerk, with D. D. Ferrall in charge. The next year a log house was built, 16x24 feet, on section 21, on land owned by George Goldsmith, and Minnie Sawyer was the teacher. District 85 was organized in 1863 with the following officers: Director, W. Brown; clerk, M. W. Rooney; treasurer, D. W. Breese. Mrs. Lucy Brown opened a school in her own house in 1860, and in 1862, the citizens rolled a few logs together, and there they laid until 1863, when a frame building went up in section 32 at a cost of $600. Here Mrs. Brown also taught. In 1878 another house was built. Harry Armstrong was the first to teach in this building. District 173 was organized February 19, 1878. The officers were: Director, I. Fay; clerk, George M. Farrington; treasurer, H. F. Douchey. A frame house was built, 16x20 feet, in 1877, on land owned by A. W. Fargo, in section 31. Maud McFaul was the first instructor, with twenty pupils. This district includes a part of the town of Jordan. District 161. This district was set off in 1868, and two terms of school were taught

in the house of James A. Scott, Ida Barber presiding. In 1870 the schoolhouse was erected on section 4, Fountain, at an expense of $260. The school is now located in section 34, Chatfield township.

Pilot Mound. District 55. In 1856 a school was taught in the house of Frank Whitney, and his wife was the teacher. This was in section 10, and there were a dozen or more scholars. A log schoolhouse was built in 1856, on the land of H. Jones, in section 10, Mrs. Whitney, the same teacher, also was the first to officiate here. In about 1867 this building, having outlasted its usefulness, was replaced by another, which cost $1,200. District 56. The school bearing this number was organized in March, 1857, at the house of H. R. Rouse, when a site was agreed upon for the schoolhouse, which was to be within eighty-five rods of the geographical center of the district. A tax of $106 was raised to build the schoolhouse, and it was to be ready for occupancy by the first of June that year. Nelson Frost, Henry A. Spicer and Isaac Dickinson were chosen trustees. The house was of logs, in section 8, on land owned by N. Frost. The school was opened by Marietta Smith. This may have been the first schoolhouse in town. It had a dirt roof and it was not uncommon to see snakes on the top of the house which was green with grass. This educational institution served its purpose until 1869, when a new one was built in section 7. Dilla J. Mann was the first teacher there. District 57. As near as can be learned the first school opened in this district was at the residence of Nels Thorson in 1857. Lewis Everson taught in the Norsk tongue. The next year a regular "bee" was held, and a log cabin put up and dignified by the name of schoolhouse. In 1878 or 1879 an edifice was constructed in section 31. The first teacher to teach in the English language in this district was H. H. Hayden. District 58. In the autumn of 1862 a house was bought of Peter Berg, in section 26, for a schoolhouse, and school was commenced with J. H. Burrell as teacher, with twelve or fourteen scholars. In 1871 a schoolhouse was put up in section 24, on land owned by Peter Berg. The house cost about $400. District 139 was organized in 1866 at the house of Asa Smith. Mary Green first called the school to order, and kept the first term. In the summer of 1867 the first schoolhouse was built at a cost of $900. While the building was going up a school was kept in a log cabin formerly used by John Ellsbury. District 159. This district, in 1877, was organized from four other districts. The meeting for organizing was held on October 3 at the house of Charles Egge. Otto Haug was elected director; Carl Egge, treasurer; Nels T. Borgen, clerk. The schoolhouse was built in section 21, at a cost of $350, and

the school opened on January 1, 1878, William McKeown being the initial teacher.

Arendahl. The first school in town was in the Norsk language and was taught by A. E. Boyum, in private houses in the winter of 1857 and 1858. The first school in English was taught in District No. 36. District 35. The earliest school taught in this district was in a log church by Christina Thompson, later married to A. Anderson. In 1867 a frame building was put up. District 164. In 1872 a stone schoolhouse was built at a cost of $500, 17x23 feet. Robert W. Butler was the first to teach in the building. District 166. In this district, teaching began in the Norwegian language in 1864. The teacher was Andrew O. Olnestad. In 1871 the schoolhouse was built, L. O. Olnestad being the teacher at that time. District 36. This district was early organized, and in 1862 a log edifice, 18x22, was up and served the purpose until 1873, when a structure was erected 20x34 feet.

Rushford. Rushford Schools. This independent district was created by a charter in 1868, but was not organized until February 20, 1869, and in March the following persons were elected as officers: Niles Carpenter, Joseph Otis, John C. Smith, John Hobart, Joseph E. Atwater and George B. Parker. The first teacher was G. W. Kemp, a medical student, who, during the second term, was taken sick and went home to die in Indiana. In 1879 the large schoolhouse being insufficient, a new one was built for the primary department. This district was made up from the old county district No. 16 and succeeded to the property. Thus began the public school history of Rushford city, which is given elsewhere. The first school taught here was a private one by Mrs. Henry Mead, in her own house on the south side of Rushford avenue, in the winter of 1857-58. The first public school was opened by Miss Waters on Monday, February 1, 1858, in a claim shanty built by Mrs. Nims, about three-fourths of a mile north of the postoffice. District 18. The first school held here was in the basement of the house of Joshua Emery, in section 2, in the summer of 1857, and was taught by Martha Emery, who a few months afterward was married to H. Stage. The school was continued here for several years. In 1859 an attempt was made to build a schoolhouse, and those interested got out some timber and hewed it, and actually commenced work on the building, which was located where the Catholic cemetery was later laid out, but the poverty of the settlers compelled them to abandon the work. In 1867, they succeeded in erecting a frame building, in section 2, at a cost of about $500. District 160. The first school in this district was a small one of logs in section 6, on the land now owned by G. Olson. In 1878 a

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large frame building was constructed in section 7, on the farm of R. Torsons, at a cost of between $400 and $500. District 146. The first school here was held in a granary belonging to Otis Batrick in section 15, and here the school was taught up to 1866, when a frame house was built. Eva Walker taught the first school. District 154 (joint). The first school was held in the granary of Hans Hanson, in section 25, in 1880, and the same year a frame house was built at a cost of about $300. The first term was taught by Tilda Oldhouse, of Rushford. District 144. The first school in this district was taught in the year 1866 by Nancy Willet, the district having been organized the previous year. The school was in a small shanty. The first board elected was composed of the following gentlemen: George A. Hayse, A. T. Benson and W. F. Gates. In the year 1870 it was decided to build a new house, which was done on lot 7, South Rushford, at a cost of $1,000. It is known as the South Rushford school. District 17. This is the Peterson district and was established in 1856. It was at first No. 42, and took six sections from this town and six from Arendahl. The earliest history of this district is rather obscure, but a school seems to have been kept in a log building built for that purpose on the land of Peter Peterson Haslerud, where the village of Peterson now is. Here it was held until a frame house was put up in 1870, on the land of Easton and Barton, in section 29 on the west side of the river. The cost was about $500. The present Peterson school, which covers the work of the usual graded schools, and also does two years of high school work, was erected in 1900 at a cost of $5,000.

Norway. District 15. The first school inaugurated in this district was in the house of Andrew Peterson in section twenty-eight, in 1859 or 1860. The instructor was G. A. Highland. The first schoolhouse was a log structure, 16x20 feet, in section 29. District 13. The first building for school purposes was erected in 1859, and was 14x16 feet. The first teacher was Hannah Onstine. The location was in section 15. A new house, 20x36, was later erected at a cost of $850. District 12. The first shelter for the school was of logs in the center of section 17. In 1878 a new house was put up at a cost of $500. District 14. The first house was got together by subscription; it was 16x18 feet and was put up in 1861. In 1878 a new house was erected, 18x26 feet. District 157 is joint with Houston county and has its schoolhouse in section 36. District 183 (joint). This district, which has a schoolhouse in section 12, is joint with Houston county and takes in families in Norway and Rushford. It was created by the county commissioners, March 6, 1895. District 185 takes in families in Norway, Holt, Amherst and Preble. It was created by the county commissioners, March 24, 1896. The schoolhouse

is in section 31, Norway. District 186 was created by the county commissioners January 3, 1899. The schoolhouse is in section 7, and the district is in the extreme northwestern part of the township.

Holt. At first the town was divided into four districts, each representing a quarter of the territory. In 1871 a new district was formed, and according to the county rule it became No. 167, which represented the whole number of schools in the county at that date. This new district was taken in part from No. 32 and partly from No. 33, and was located in the south part of the town. District 32. The location of the school house is on section twenty-five. The district embraces the southeast corner of the town and was the first organized. In the winter of 1857 N. A. Graves carried the petition for the establishment of the district to Preston on snow shoes. The following spring a log house was put up by voluntary subscriptions of material and work. At the first school about forty pupils got together in the 18x20 building, the first to wield authority being Helen Chambers. About ten years afterwards a frame building was constructed. District 34. The school thus designated embraces the northeast corner of the town. Late in the sixties this district was created, and Delia Adams undertook to teach in the house of Holver Kittleson. After a while a log house, 14x18 feet, was built, mostly by subscription. D. Adams was one of the first trustees. District 167. As already stated this district was ushered into existence in 1871. The school house was of logs and was sided over. Anton Cleaver was the architect and builder. The first teacher was John Quinn. District 33. The location of the schoolhouse is on section 29, and it accommodates the pupils in the southwest part of the town. The first building was a subscription one of logs. In 1877, a good frame building with a cupola, modern seats, and educational appliances was supplied, the dimensions of the building being 20x30 feet, with a front hall 10x10 feet. The cost was $800. District 72. This is the Whalen Village School, and was commenced soon after the mill was put in operation, in a shanty just east of Dyer's store. Julia O'Brien was the earliest instructor. In 1870 a building was erected; a frame structure, 28x38 feet, with a cupola and bell, patent seats, globes, maps and other modern paraphernalia, to assist in mental development. The cost of the building was $1,200. The first teacher here was Miss P. Reppey. Whalen now has a semi-graded school with two departments.

Carrolton. District 49. This was first organized in 1858. The first officers were: J. H. Skarie, clerk; K. O. Orton, director; R. Knudtson, treasurer. A school had previously been taught in the house of K. K. Bell in 1857 by Lars Iverson in the Norwegian language. In 1858 James Oberton taught English in the house

of K. C. Orton, and until the schoolhouse was built private houses were used. The schoolhouse cost about $450. Elling Gulings was the first teacher. District 50. The first school here was probably the one opened in the house of M. Mulholland, Ellen Mulholland being the instructor. Afterwards a school was kept in N. Walden's residence. In 1868 a house was built in the southeast corner of section four, at a cost of about $300. The first to teach in the new schoolhouse was Lizzie Whalen. District 51. It is claimed with great plausibility in each case that the first school was kept at three different places by as many different persons. This district was probably organized about 1858, and a schoolhouse constructed at the quarter stake between sections 7 and 8, each man bringing logs; before it was finally completed, however, it was torn down and removed to section 8, where it was finished. In 1859 the first school was opened there with Miss Mulholland wielding the rod of authority. The school continued there until a house was completed in 1875, in section 18, at a cost of $450. District 52. In 1860 a school was started in a house owned by Sheldon Eddy in section 21; Eliza Underwood handled the ferule. About the same time the organization was effected. Schools were continued in private houses up to 1869, when a schoolhouse was put up that cost $30. In 1871 a building was constructed at a cost of $300. Sarah Woodward was the first teacher in the new schoolhouse. District 53. School was taught in the house of H. Peterson in 1858, while this was a part of district No. 52. Wm. Sawyer was the teacher. The district was set off in 1861, and that winter a school was opened at the residence of Jacob Heintz. In 1862 a log house was built in section 27 on the land of O. C. Gulbrandson, who furnished the rough timber. All helped put it together, and when nearly ready for the roof Mr. Fiske was employed to finish it for about $100. In 1871 the house was moved to section 28. In 1880 a fourth of an acre of land was bought of J. C. Easton for $25, on the same section, about 450 yards north of the former site. District 54. This was formed by a subdivision of No. 53, and organized in 1867. The next year a schoolhouse was built in section 26. The first school started in the new house and the district was under the supervision of Angie McMullen. Lanesboro Schools.—Lanesboro was organized as an independent graded school and the school building erected at a cost of about $1,200. Further mention is found elsewhere.

Fountain. District 74. This is the district embracing the village of Fountain and surrounding territory. The district was organized about 1857, and a school was taught that year in a private house. Later in the same year a log house was erected in section 15, south of town, which served as a schoolhouse until 1873, having been moved several times. In 1873, a neat house

was erected at a cost of about $800 in the village. The first teacher was Carrie Wall. Fountain village now has a graded school with four departments. District 75. An organization of this district was effected in 1856, and a schoolhouse put up the second year, on H. H. Winslow's land, in section 8, which served until 1868, when another house was erected. Jane Kinney was the first teacher in the old house, while Thomas Fitch inaugurated the newer one. District 76. In 1861, this district was organized and a building bought of Jerry O'Brien for $100. This was on section 20, but was moved to section 16 in 1866. In 1880, the new schoolhouse was constructed. This building cost $300. Lucretia Bilger was the first teacher in this district. District 77. In 1857, the district was formed, and a house built of logs furnished by the settlers, who arranged a "bee" and put them together. John Utley started the first school and at the end of the third week Henry Lockwood took charge and finished the term. This served the district up to 1872, when the house was burned, and then a new house was built on the old site in section 20, and the school started by Lizzie J. Sharpe. District 78. This district was organized in 1857, and a log schoolhouse was put together by subscription without tax, in the summer of that year. The first school was taught immediately after the completion of the schoolhouse by Abraham Sheldon. The house now in use by the district is located in the northeastern corner of section 33. District 79. This district was organized at an early day and a log schoolhouse erected by subscription. The first school was taught by Mrs. Gates in the log house. District 80. This district was organized in 1860 and a log house put up that summer. In the winter, a school was taught by Mrs. J. S. Hanley. This building was 22x26 feet, erected by volunteer work and material, except windows and furniture. A new house was built in 1878, at a cost of about $700, on the old lot in section 7. Blanch Bartlich had the honor of being the first instructor in the new house.

Fillmore. It is claimed that the first school in the town was called to order by William Sackett. The school was held at Fillmore village in a little log hut in 1857, and had in attendance six or seven scholars. The teacher, Mr. Sackett, had just arrived from New York; he afterward married Catherine Splain, and moved to Lanesboro. District 94. This district comprises what is known as the Fillmore village district. Its organization was effected in 1856, being without doubt the first organized district in the town, and the first place in which school was held. A log house was put together in 1856, by subscription, which lasted until 1873, when a new house was put up in the village at a cost of $900. The first school was taught by William Sackett, and was attended by seven or eight scholars. District 63. This dis-

trict was organized late in the fifties, being the district embracing the locality southeast of Wykoff. Shortly after organizing a cheap frame structure was erected, and in 1876 a building was put up at a cost of about $600, the size being 20x30 feet. The schoolhouse was located on the southwest quarter of section 23. The house is now located farther south. District 95. The first teacher to call a school to order in this district was Mrs. Elias Mosher. Their present school building is a neat edifice on the northeast quarter of section 33. The district embraces part of the town of Wykoff. District 96. This district received its organization in the year 1860, and the first school was called to order in that year by Joseph Blanchard in the private log dwelling of Thomas Masteller, on section 20, thirty-three scholars being enrolled. In 1861, a log house was built by subscription. This lasted until about 1869, when a house was built at a cost of about $1,000, on section 29. District 153. This was organized about 1870, and shortly after a stone building was erected at a cost of $900. The first school was taught by Amantha Stevens. This district embraces that portion of the town lying northeast of Fillmore village, the schoolhouse being located on the southeast quarter of section 2. District 172. This district was organized in 1875, Thomas Pulford being the first director and Silva Long the first teacher after the district was set off. In 1876, a schoolhouse was built, size 16x28, at a cost of $500. The first school was attended by twenty-seven scholars. District 104. This takes in the territory of Wykoff. It was organized in 1875, from the other contiguous districts. Messrs. Crain, Kilborn, and Bartlett were the first officers. A schoolhouse was built that year, 26x48 feet, and cost $850. The first school kept while the schoolhouse was building was in the Baptist church, by James Goodsell. The present Wykoff village school is graded with four departments. District 187 is the youngest district in Fillmore county. The schoolhouse is in section 18, Fillmore township.

Spring Valley. District 113. At an early day this formed a part of the old Spring Valley district, but in 1871 or 1872, a school was started at the house of Charles Beverly, in section 35, and it was also kept in other houses. In 1873, a schoolhouse was provided, of brick. District 114. School was first taught in this locality in a building put up for that purpose on section 23, in 1859. The first school was taught by Cornelia Hartshorn, from Boston, who soon married I. Freeman. The schools here had a large attendance till 1876, when a new house was erected at a cost of $1,100, near the old one. The school is called the "Pleasant Hill Schoolhouse." District 115. This has the appellation of "Hard Scrabble" school, and the first session was taught here in a slab shanty erected for that purpose in 1858, and presided

over by Mrs. Littlefield. After a few years it was kept in a building rented of Wilkins & Fifield, on the bank of the creek. Finally the schoolhouse was constructed on section 11. District 116. The first school within the limits of this district was called to order in a little log cabin on section 17 in 1857, and the presiding genius was Mary O. Hill. There the school was in session for five or six terms, until the structure was consumed by fire, and then another log house went up on section 8, where the rising generation was gathered until 1871, when a new house was built. District 117. Susan Sharp, who afterward became Mrs. J. Q. Farmer, taught school in a little claim shanty on section 30, in 1863. Soon after a log schoolhouse was put together on the farm of W. H. Conklin in section 32. In 1873, a structure was built on the eastern line of section 30. District 148. The first school held here was in a frame building belonging to L. G. Odell, on section 4, in 1868, and Nancy Rosebrook was the first teacher. The district was soon organized, and the school was continued in the same place, and then in the blacksmith shop near there. Then a substantial log schoolhouse went up, replaced later by a modern building. District 156. Soon after the war of the rebellion this district was set off, and a wing of a building belonging to S. Treat bought and moved to the northeast section of 21. Wesley P. Carrol was the first to wield the rod of authority in this district. District 165. It was not until 1874 that this was created as a district, and a frame schoolhouse erected on the town line in section 32. The initial teacher was William Farnsworth. District 112 embraces the village of Spring Valley and is elsewhere treated in full. District 178 embraces land in Spring Valley and Fillmore. It was created from districts 124, 97, 115 and 172, by the county commissioners, July 14, 1890. The schoolhouse is in section 12.

Bloomfield. District 108. The first school taught in this district was in the summer of 1857, by Mrs. Hunt, in a log cabin, where it continued until the schoolhouse was built, in section 20. No school is now kept in this district. District 107. A log schoolhouse was built in 1856, and a school opened by Daniel Scoville. The school officers were John Bateman, Mr. McCord and Dwight Rathbun. There were at first about a dozen juveniles to be taught. The schoolhouse is located upon the eastern line of section 2. A sabbath school was organized here in 1857, with Daniel Scoville as superintendent. District 109 was organized in the fall of 1858, and in 1859 a school was held in Mr. Baker's granery by John B. Freeborn. In 1860, everyone in the district turned out to assist in putting up a schoolhouse now in use, and all were credited 75 cents per day on their tax. The schoolhouse, 20x25 feet, was erected on the northwest corner of section 23. The first

school in the new house was governed by Helen Lilly, who received $1.50 a month and board. About twelve juveniles gathered on the benches. Messrs. McNee and Craig were the most influential citizens of the town, or at least of that section, in locating the building, starting the school, and securing and paying the teacher. District 110. This comprises the territory known as the Etna school district. It was organized in 1856, and a log schoolhouse erected on section 36. The teacher, Elder Ropes, gave his services for $6 a month and his board, which was obtained by visiting around from house to house, so many days at each. The log cabin filled the requirements until 1865, when a house was built on section 26, size 24x30 feet, at a cost of $700. It was afterwards removed to section 25, in the western part of Etna village. The first religious instruction was at Etna, the little hamlet in section twenty-five. Rev. Mr. Bly, of the Baptist faith, was the missionary. District 132. The first in this part of the town was taught by Miss Graham in Mr. Allen's house. In 1864, a building was bought, moved and fixed up, which served until early in the seventies, when a new building was located in the northwestern corner of section 17. District 111. This district was organized in 1859, and a plain slab shanty erected on section 33, by subscription. This rude hut lasted until 1876, when a neat building was erected on the same place, size 18x24 feet, at a cost of about $400. The first school was called to order in the slab shanty by Sarah Beach. District 180 was established by the county commissioners, May 2, 1893, out of portions of districts 107, 108 and 109. The schoolhouse is located in almost the exact center of the township. District 181. The Ostrander school is a wooden structure of two rooms. Two teachers are employed, and there are about sixty scholars. The district was organized from parts of districts 108 and 111 by the county commissioners, May 2, 1893.

Forestville. The township of Forestville is divided into seven school districts. They are all in good financial standing and under good management. The schoolhouses in the township, as an average, surpass those of any of the surrounding towns. The first district organized in the town was what is now known as district No. 90. The first schoolhouse in an organized county district was erected here. District 90. This district embraces the village of Forestville and surrounding territory. The district was organized as district 3 in 1854 and as district 1 on January 2, 1855. In it was undoubtedly constructed the first school erected in an organized district in this county. The story is told elsewhere. In 1856 a brick house was built, which lasted until another house was erected in 1878. A schoolhouse north of the village was erected at a cost of $1,800, size 24x36

feet, two stories, and a stone basement. District 91. This district embraces the territory in the extreme northwestern part of the town, and extends into the adjoining towns. The schoolhouse is located in the western part of section 6. District 92. This district was organized about 1860, and a log house built by subscription, which answered all school purposes until 1870, when a schoolhouse was erected at a cost of about $900, a short distance south of where the original house stood. This house was a neat brick building on the northwest quarter of section 18. District 93. In a log house owned by Mr. Graling, the first school was called to order by Annie Sanderson, and shortly afterward the district was organized. The house now occupied by the district is in the southwest corner of section 29. District 170. This received its organization later than the other districts in the township, in 1874, and a neat brick schoolhouse was erected at a cost of $1,000, in the northern part of section 8. District 155. Miss Crain taught the first school here in 1856 or 1857, in a house in section 13. The next year the school was also taught by the same lady in another dwelling. A house was erected about 1870, and cost between $900 and $1,000, being a substantial brick structure, in the eastern part of section 15. District 142. This district was organized at an early day. The district embraces territory in the southeastern part of the town, the stone schoolhouse having been built on the southwestern quarter of section 27.

Carimona. District 68. In 1857 a stone schoolhouse in the village was put up, 16x20 feet, which served up to 1868, when a building now standing was erected of brick with a stone foundation, a tower 10x12 feet, of brick, with a bell, the cost being about $1,200. A school had been taught as early as 1855, in a building belonging to Brackett & Pickett, by Rev. T. P. Ropes with fifteen children. It was afterwards taught by Miss M. J. Shaft in the Converse building. District 70 was organized in 1861, with the following officers: Director, Cornelius Carl; clerk, P. Flynn; treasurer, James Kaygen. The location of the school building is on section 32. The first school was taught the first year of its organization in the residence of M. Flynn, by Lucy Okey. The schoolhouse was put up in 1862, and was of logs, 14x16 feet, and cost $300. Another house was constructed in 1873, 18x20 feet, at a cost of $600. The first school taught here was by William Allen with forty pupils. District 71. In 1862, this district was set apart and organized. The first director was J. Savage; clerk, S. Stevens; treasurer, William Davis. A school was taught in this district in 1860 by Jerusha Thacher, in Scott Steven's house, with eleven scholars. In 1863 a log building was put up, 18x20 feet, in section 27. The next year Alice Lancaster kept the school with fifteen pupils. District 73. This is the

Waukokee school. In 1854 a log schoolhouse was built, 16x20 feet. It had twenty scholars. The next year a house was constructed, 20x30 feet, and furnished with a bell weighing seventy-five pounds. The schoolhouse is located in section 25. District 171. This was not organized till 1877. The schoolhouse was built on section 17, is 16x24 feet, and cost $300 or more. The first director was J. Healy; treasurer, C. Smith; clerk, T. Delaney. The first school was taught by P. Healy in the residence of J. Healy, with fifteen pupils. District 67. An early school was here taught by Ellen S. Morgan with twelve children, in Whitmore Ford's house in section 10. The next year, 1858, the district was organized. In 1861 a house was built on section 11, 16x22, the land being donated by W. Ford. The house cost $300. The school is now in section 10.

Preston. District 47. This district has been known as the Duxbury school, the Mills school, the Hutton school and the Partridge school, and has facetiously been called Yale college. The school was started about 1858 or 1859, and the land was given by John Duxbury. The schoolhouse was built of logs, and stood a few feet east of the present schoolhouse. Otis Priest took charge of the building operations. The first school in the district was taught by ——— Crouch, a shoemaker. He was followed by ——— Chandler, and Chandler was followed by ——— Kennedy. A new schoolhouse was built in 1874, and the first teacher in this building was Helen Nash, of Lanesboro. It was under the tuition of Jesse C. Johnson, that this school became the leading school in the county, and gained its name of "Yale college." District 48. January 27, 1858, a meeting was held to organize the district at the house of Mr. Livingood. A. J. Tillotson was the clerk, and the schoolhouse was built the same year on the land of Mr. Livingood which was leased for ninety-nine years. Each family was required to make a bench for the schoolhouse. Emily Miller presided at the teacher's desk for the first time in the new schoolhouse. The lease of the land was afterwards lost, and Mr. Livingood took possession of the building and put a family in it. For a year or two there was no school in the district. In 1874 a piece of land was procured of Chris. Hahn, in section 4, and a new schoolhouse went up, the first school being taught by Cara Slater. District 46. Schools were started by the settlers even before their district had been organized. Each one in a neighborhood would haul some logs and help to build the schoolhouse, and gave a few dollars to the teacher, also looking after her board. The school in district 46 was built at the encouragement of Mrs. Henderson, who offered a gallon of whiskey to the first man who should draw a load of logs and deposit it in the place she indicated. The first teacher in this log school was

Katharine Bursell, later Mrs. James Rice. She was paid eight dollars a month, and lived with her relatives, the Hendersons. Mrs. Rice taught as soon as the log building was finished. She has often asserted that this was in the summer of 1860, for while a teacher she visited the bride, Ellen Young Hutton, who was married to William Hutton, December 31, 1859. Edwin Stork insists that he visited the school in the summer of 1859, and that Sarah Kimber, whom he afterwards married, spelled the school down. He is sure of this because it was the summer before he came of age, which was in November, 1859. The log structure was used until 1869 when a frame edifice was erected at a cost of $850. District 169. This was formerly a part of No. 48, but was set off and organized in 1871. A half acre of land was bought of Andreas Tollefson, on section 15, for $12.50, and that same fall a house was built at a cost of $560. Le. B. Felt was the first teacher; John Livingood was clerk, Michael Anstett, director, and Ole Larson, treasurer. District 137. This was organized in the last half of the sixties, and was taken from No. 47, from the Preston district, and a part in Carimona was added in 1878. When the district was first organized a log house was put up which lasted till 1878, when a building was provided on section 18, at a cost of $1,200. In the new house, Hattie Sutton had the honor of calling the first school to order. In the early history of the district Ettie Prescott was the first teacher, in E. Long's house. District 129. In 1861 this district was organized, and the same year a schoolhouse was laid up of stone, at a cost of about $500. The house is on section 31. Mary Manning was the first teacher in this district. District 136. This was formerly a part of Nos. 48 and 169. It was set off and organized about 1863, when a small log house was procured from section 11 and moved to section 12. Duncan Murray was the first teacher. In 1875 a house was built at a cost of $700, and J. W. Bennett was the first teacher. District 45 takes in the village schools of Preston.

Preble. The first school building erected in town was completed in 1858 for district No. 11. The size of the structure was 16x18 feet. The walls were of oak logs with handmade oak shingles for the roof. The settlers were the architects and builders. It served the double purpose of secular and religious teaching until the church was put up in 1864. District 9. In 1859, a log house was built, 14x16 feet, near the house of Nels Johnson. The school was opened by Mrs. Cameron, of Hesper, Iowa. In 1878, a new schoolhouse was put on a site farther north than the old one, and on section 21. District 7 was organized in 1863, and the following year a log house was built. Anna Hall was the first teacher. On the subdivision of the district in 1871, the

house was moved to a more central point in the northwest corner of section 10. District 162. This was taken from No. 7 in 1871. In 1877, a new frame building was constructed near the western boundary of section 12. District 69. This is a joint district with Houston county. The union was effected in 1871, through the exertions of Patrick Flannagan and John Kelley, and a schoolhouse was erected, 14x18 feet. The first term of school was presided over by Mary Kelly in the winter of 1872. District 10 was first organized and a schoolhouse built in 1862. The first teacher was William Van Doren. In 1873 a new schoolhouse was erected near the southeast corner of section 26. District 163. This was organized in 1870, and the following year a small log house was put up. The earliest school was taught by Minnie Clark.

Newburg. District 2. In 1862, this district was organized; but two terms of school had been held prior to the time the schoolhouse was erected. The first schoolhouse was completed in 1865. A part of this district at one time was set off and connected with a district in Houston county. District 3. An organization was effected in 1856. The first officers were: trustees, Osten Peterson, Mathew Mathison, and Hans Arneson; clerk, Hans Valder. A schoolhouse of small dimensions was built the same year. The first instructor was Emily Seelye. District 5. This district is said to have been organized in 1855. E. F. West taught the first school. It was subdivided in 1872, and district No. 168 was set off, and in 1873 another schoolhouse was built. There was quite an opposition to building the new house, but the friends of the measure rallied at a school meeting one stormy night and carried their point. District 6. This was organized in 1857, and a school building erected the same year, 20x30 feet. James McDonald has the honor of having taught the first school, in the winter of 1857. This district now comprises the village school of Mabel. District 66. A building for school purposes was put up in 1863, soon after the organization of the district, and the earliest school was called to order by Frances Plomteaux the following winter. District 135. In 1860, this district was organized, and the following year a schoolhouse was built at a cost of $475, 18x22 feet. Samuel Aiken taught the first school. District 150. This formed a part of the sixth district, and was organized near the close of the sixties. The following year a schoolhouse was erected, 18x28 feet, at a cost of $800. The first school teacher was Dura Gilmore. District 168. A schoolhouse was erected in 1873, and the first school taught by Mrs. Robert Benedict. District 64 was taken from Nos. 5 and 6, and in the seventies was organized and a schoolhouse, 18x24 feet, erected on section 17. It has been known as the

"White Schoolhouse" and was a prominent landmark. No school is now held in this district. District 1 is at Riceford in Houston county, being a joint district with this county. District 4 has a schoolhouse in section 7.

Canton. District 19. This is the old Leonra school, the first school taught in the county, in the building erected for school purposes. Its history is found in full elsewhere. District 20. This was set off from a district north of it extending into Amherst. The schoolhouse was built in 1867, and is on the southeast corner of section 8 and cost about $600. The first school was taught by Della Stewart. District 21. In 1858, Elder W. Morse, a Baptist clergyman, began teaching school from one house to another. In 1860, a house was built on the farm of Josiah Fay in section 18. District 22. In 1855, a school was opened in a house built the year before by A. Eastman, in section 14, on the northwest part, but the next year was removed to the southeast of the same section. The building is now used by William Willford as a stable. The first school was taught by Clarisa Eddy. A schoolhouse was built in 1865, on section 14. District 23. On the east of section 25 the first school was kept in claim shanty belonging to John Graham on what is now the farm of Engebert Ellingson. This was in the fall of 1856. In the winter of 1857-58, a log house was constructed for school purposes on section 36. A brick schoolhouse was built in 1872, at a cost of $800, besides volunteer labor. The first teacher in the district was Sarah West Benedict. The old brick schoolhouse is now replaced by a modern building. District 24. In 1866 the first school was called to order in the present schoolhouse by Alice Baker Sprague. At the first school there were twenty-six names on the register. The location is on the southeast corner of section 28. Elliota School, District 25. The initial school was in the winter of 1855-56, in an addition to the house of C. B. Kimball, and was presided over by Sarah Allen, of Bellevue. This was east of the village, and during the following summer it was kept at the house of Andrew Cheney. In 1856, the old stone schoolhouse was constructed. This served the purpose up to 1869, when it was burned, and after quite a bitter contest a new one was put up at a cost of about $500, on the northeast corner of section 31. District 26. In a frame house of Wesley Willford's on section 21, in 1862, the first school was opened by Hannah Bursell and taught here for a single term, when a temporary frame structure was put up near the east line of the same section, and there one term was also taught. Then a schoolhouse was built on section 16, at a cost of about $300. Canton Village Schools. When first recorded as a village the territory embraced the corners of four school districts, but in

the fall of 1881 a new district, No. 174, was formed by taking forty acres from each of them, and thus making a new one from the 160 acres thus obtained. Arrangements were made to build a schoolhouse two stories high, with a belfry and other adornments, at a cost of about $2,000. The first school was taught by May L. Mason in the house of George Hudson, in March, 1881.

Harmony has seven school districts as follows: District 37 on section 3; district 38 on section 9; district 39 on section 20; district 40, the village schools of Harmony; district 42, a former district in which school is no longer held; district 41 on section 26; district 44 on section 29, and district 140 on section 1. In section 8 there is a small church school.

Bristol. The first school in town was taught in M. C. St. John's house in the winter of 1854. Mr. St. John employed Adeline Stork to teach. She had seven pupils and the term was thirteen weeks. The family moved into the kitchen to make room for the educational institution. District 59. The first schoolhouse was built in the fall of 1856, of logs furnished by the settlers, who brought the material and put up the building on section 35. W. E. Adams went to Lansing, sixty miles, for the boards, windows and shingles. The first school was kept that winter by S. R. Lewis. In the fall of 1867 it was moved to section 36. District 60. In 1862 this was organized and the same year the schoolhouse was built. The contract was made with T. Chase to complete it for $300, but he lost money on the job, and the district allowed him $25 additional. It was located on section 22. Affie Linderman was the first teacher. The officers were J. C. Brown, Edwin Teel and John Linderman. In the fall of 1881 the schoolhouse was burned, but was rebuilt. District 61. This organization was effected about 1860, and the first school was taught in a granary belonging to George Drury; it was afterwards kept in M. O'Connor's granary in the summer and in the house in the winter. Maria Flynn was the first teacher. The schoolhouse was built in 1872. The first instructor in the schoolhouse was Oscar Ayres. The first director was M. O'Connor. District 62. This was organized in 1860. The first school was in a shanty put up for the purpose near Joseph Ogg's granary. It was afterwards kept in N. Ogg's granary, and afterwards in John Shook's. Then a cabin was bought at Buffalo Grove for $15, and moved to section 5, where the school was kept until 1869, when a house was built. It is known as the Prairie Queen schoolhouse. District 65. This was first organized in 1857 or 1858. John Carnegie, John Rice and John Stahl were the first officers. The same year the men in the district turned out and put up a log house, getting out the shingles by hand. The lumber was sawed at the steam sawmill at Waukokee. Its location

was on the land of John Rice, on section 13. Ruth Anderson was the teacher. School was continued here until a new house was built on section 24. District 130. Mary Buskirk kept school in D. Crowell's house in 1858, and only the Crowell children attended. In 1869 the district was organized, and the first school kept in Norman Brace's house, Mrs. Brace being the teacher. This was in section 32; afterwards it was in a log house in section 31. A new schoolhouse was built in 1872, on section 31, at a cost of $650. Georgie L. Tibbales was the first teacher. James Arnot, N. Brace and John Sims were the officers. District 131. This was organized in 1861, and the first school taught in the house of Joshua Horton, Alice Andrews being the instructor. The officers were Ole Skrabeck, Henry Tarbest and Joshua Horton. The school boarded around in different houses until the year 1866, when a schoolhouse was constructed on section 11. This district has one of the best single room buildings in the county. It was erected at a cost of about $1,600 and follows the modern "side light" plan, the main room having windows on the north only. District 149. This was formerly a part of No. 59 and was set off in 1861, and the first school kept in a house belonging to Burgess & Greenleaf. George Bates was the first teacher. After that the school was kept in the Red Tavern. In 1870 a schoolhouse was constructed in section 33, costing about $700. In 1874 that was demolished and a new one put up in Granger, a two story building costing about $1,200. Sarah D. Teel taught the first school here. District 151. School was first taught in this district at the house of G. G. Roberts in section 18, and afterwards in a log house in section 19. The same year, 1868, the district was organized. In 1870 a schoolhouse was built on section 19 at a cost of $500. Richard D. Jones was the first teacher in the new schoolhouse. This is the Bristol Grove schoolhouse.

York. District 86. In 1861 this district was organized, and during that summer a school was kept by Lucy Canfield in her house on section 21. In 1862 the schoolhouse was got up, 18x24 feet, on section 29. It was afterwards enlarged by the addition of twelve feet to the length. As originally formed the district had eleven and one-half sections. In November, 1881, it was subdivided by a special act of the legislature leaving the east half of the district with the schoolhouse and a new number. The new district thus formed from the western portion held a meeting at the house of Oren Louden on April 29, 1882, and elected officers as follows: Director, L. Conklin; treasurer, Moses Gue; clerk, O. Louden. A tax of $450 was voted to build a schoolhouse on the northeast quarter of section 30. District 87. This was organized about 1860 at the house of E. Armstrong. A

house was built of hewn logs supplied by members of the district who turned out to lay them up. The school was started that same summer, and it is believed that Mary Burgess was the teacher. The building was located on the northeast quarter of section 34. In May, 1880, a frame building was put up about seventy rods north of where the old one stood. In the new house Arne Grundyson was the first teacher. District 88. An organization was effected in 1860, and the farmers supplied the logs and then helped put up the structure on section 24. Mary Black was the first teacher. District 89. The first schoolhouse here was erected in 1857, on section 10, by the usual method of contribution in material and work, and that winter a school was opened and Mary Black was the first to handle the ferule. In 1870 the old building furnished food for the flames. Then the school was kept in A. S. Adam's granary and in a house where Mr. Adams formerly lived. In 1872 a building was erected. In the new house George J. Sanderson was the first instructor. District 134. The first school taught in this district was in John Boland's house in section one, in 1860, by Nettie Terbest, a subscription school for small scholars. In 1865, it was organized and a house put upon section eleven. Maria Flynn was the first teacher in the school-house. A new building was erected in 1876, at a cost of $1,300, and a school was opened by Harris Merrill. District 182 has a schoolhouse in section 18. The district takes in parts of sections 7, 8, 19 and 20 and all of 17 and 18. It was organized by the county commissioners, March 6, 1895. District 175 was organized in the eighties. The schoolhouse is in section 28. District 184 has a schoolhouse in section 5, and takes in families from Forestville and York. The district was organized by the commissioners, March 6, 1895.

Beaver. The first district in the town was organized in 1857, in the southwestern part, and the first school was taught by Mrs. H. E. Edmunds in her house. After several years, as no schoolhouse had been built, the district was merged into No. 103. District 31. In 1880, this district was organized, and the first school called to order by Alice Edmunds, in Thomas Bogan's granary. In the fall of 1881, the schoolhouse was built on section thirty, and that winter Myron Rumsey taught the first school. District 106. This was first organized in 1859, and was partly in the State of Iowa. The first school was in a log cabin in that State in the summer of 1859, and Christine Thompson was the teacher. In 1860, a shanty was built for a schoolhouse, near the state line on the Minnesota side, and the first teacher was Lucinda Tibbles. After using that a while they built a schoolhouse on the same spot, the southeast quarter of section thirty-five, and that answered the purpose up to 1872, when a good schoolhouse was constructed on

section twenty-seven which cost $500. Claudia Davis has the honor of being the first here to demand attention of the congregated pupils. District 141. This was organized in 1863, and a shanty promptly put up for school purposes on section thirty-one, and here for two years mental training was going on. Then a building on section fifteen was built. Rhoda Cray was the first instructor. This had been a part of No. 105. District 103. The voters of this district gathered in the fall of 1863, and arranged the new district in the house of Henry Hook. A school was kept in Patrick Leddy's milkhouse, Emma Peters presiding that winter; and Kate Graham the next summer, in James Smith's granary. The next winter an extemporized building was put together at a cost of $115. Emma Peters managed the first school here. District 102. In 1859, the outline of this district was defined, and a schoolhouse made of logs was put up on section five. This served the purpose until near the middle of the seventies, when another was built on the same section. This schoolhouse was used as a meeting place for the Lutherans and also for the Methodists. District 105. The first school in this vicinity was in 1858, and the district was regularly organized about that time. A building was borrowed of Norman Gates and moved from the northwest to the northeast quarter of section sixteen, and here mental discipline for the rising generation went on until 1861, when a schoolhouse was built on the same spot. In 1863, there was a subdivision of the district and the schoolhouse was moved to section nine. The school was kept there until 1876, when the building was replaced by a new one. District 143. At the house of H. O. Bryant in 1866, a meeting was held, and an organization secured by the election of O. B. Bryant, J. C. Preston, and B. F. Holman as officers. It included one-half of section six in the town of York. The first school was opened in a house belonging to O. A. Boynton, with Augusta Douglass in charge of the exercises. In 1868, a schoolhouse was built up on section one, but in January, 1872, it was moved to section two. Mary Ann Griffin was an early teacher in the district, perhaps the first. District 177 was organized in the eighties. The schoolhouse is in section 15.

Amherst township is divided into several school districts, and all are in flourishing condition. The first school to be attended by Amherst pupils was in Canton township, the district comprising part of both towns and was known as district No. 11. The log schoolhouse was built by subscription in the spring of 1857, standing just over the line in Canton township. The first teacher was Helie Ann Churchill. The second was Augusta M. Osgood, who married M. H. Onstine. It was afterwards changed to No. 138. District 138 was formerly 11, and the schoolhouse was in Canton, but bordered on both townships. A frame schoolhouse

MR. AND MRS. J. C. RICE

was built in 1870 at a cost of $800. District 27. This district was organized in March, 1857, and a little log cabin put up for school purposes at a cost of $50, size 14x16 feet, and stood where the present schoolhouse stands, the first school being taught by Mr. Kennedy, of Preston. In 1870 a house was erected at a cost of $650, size 20x30 feet, and was supplied with apparatus worth $66. It stood in the northwest corner of section eleven. District 28 was organized late in the fifties, and a log house put up by contribution of labor. Some years later this was torn down and a neat and substantial schoolhouse erected on section four, in the southwestern part. District 30 was organized in 1857, and in 1858 a frame building was erected, but afterward sold and used for a blacksmith shop. In 1867 a building was put up in section twenty-seven, in the northern part, at a cost of $350. This was at one time the largest district in town. District 43. This district was formerly blended into other surrounding districts, but in 1868 a petition was made to the county commissioners for a separate district, which was granted, and the district was at once organized. They soon after erected a neat frame structure on the east line of section sixteen, at a cost of about $300, size 18x26 feet. The first teacher was Emerilla Sutherland. District 133. Previous to the organization of this district, three terms of school had been taught in the house of Norman Botton, by Hattie Dauchey. In 1863 the organization of the district was effected under the caption of No. 133, and one year later their schoolhouse was erected in the center of section thirty-five. Mrs. Blackburn first called the school to order. District 29 was one of the first districts organized in the town, being organized in 1857, and a log house, 18x20 feet, erected for school purposes. This served as a schoolhouse until in 1876, when a substantial building was erected in the northern part of section nineteen, at a cost of $1,000, size 24x36 feet. District 8. This district was organized in 1857, and a house put up of hewn logs. In 1869 a neat structure of stone, 24x30 feet, was built a short distance north of where the old one stood, in the northeast corner of section thirteen.

CITY AND VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

It has been the desire of the editors of this publication to present a complete history of the high schools and graded schools of the county. In some cases the information has been withheld by the superintendents, principals or school clerks, and consequently several schools are omitted, with regret, from the following list.

Spring Valley Schools. The educational system of Spring Valley had its beginning in the summer of 1855, when Juliann Kingsley taught a select school in a building situated east of the

present village, on a tract of land which Thomas C. Watson had platted as the village of Spring Valley, the exact location of this dwelling being the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 27.

In the winter of 1855-56 timber was gotten out to build a frame building. School was taught here three months in the summer of 1856, by W. L. Kellogg, this being the first public school in this vicinity, and Mr. Kellogg being the first in this vicinity to draw public money from the county treasurer as a teacher.

There is considerable conflicting testimony as to the first school on the present village site. A former history has stated that Stephen Ives taught a school in 1855 at the southwest corner of Jefferson street and Broadway. A pamphlet published in 1858 speaks of a frame schoolhouse "on the hill" as already erected. However, W. L. Kellogg, the first public school teacher in Spring Valley is authority for the following statement. "The first school taught on what is now the platted portion of Spring Valley was in the summer of 1857, when Stephen Ives kept school in a slab shanty on the south side of Jefferson street, about midway between Section street and Broadway. In 1858 and 1859 school was taught in a building on the southwest corner of Jefferson street and Broadway. A frame building was erected in 1860, on the present site of the Molstad high school building. This building may still be seen just south of the new Putnam school building, on the next street."

The first school meeting of district 32 was held September 6, 1857. The officers were: Chairman, C. Wilkins; clerk, J. M. Strong; trustees, T. A. Warner, Washington Lloyd and Peter S. De Groodt. The district continued as number 32 up to April 18, 1861. The legislature having passed a new school law, the district was reorganized as number 1, and on April 27, 1861, the following officers were elected: T. M. Chapman, clerk; Simon Stevens, Cordella Wilkins and Daniel L'coville, trustees. May 6, 1862, district No. 1 was divided and district 112 was organized, and the following officers elected: Simon Stevens, directors; Simon Philips, clerk; T. M. Chapman, treasurer.

On April 29, 1871, district 112 was set aside and organized as an independent district. At this meeting it was decided to have a three and one half months' summer term, and the same length winter term. One hundred dollars was voted for teacher's wages and firewood.

The first teacher employed by district 112 in 1862 was Miss E. J. Crosby, at a salary of $3.50 a week. The second teacher in 1863 was J. C. Stevens, at a salary of $25.00 per month.

On November 14, 1868, it was resolved to build a brick schoolhouse on the site of the frame one, and accordingly a fine building

was constructed on the brow of the hill overlooking the village, at a cost of about $10,000.00.

M. F. Varney laid out the ground work for the grade system, but it devolved upon A. D. Gaines, his successor, to establish that system in the schools.

A. D. Gaines was a young man, just graduated from an eastern college. He did not stay long enough to graduate a class. In 1884 the building was remodelled, and in the fall of that year, E. E. Campbell took charge of the schools. The school building was burned February 14, 1885, less than six months from the time that the extensive improvements had been completed. During the summer of 1885 a new building was erected, and this with additions, still stands as the Morstad high school. In the spring of 1886, the school graduated its first class, consisting of three members: Charles D. Gould, Ernest E. Bentley and Nellie C. Austin. Mr. Campbell remained eight years and raised the school from third grade to a place among the best.

Following is a list of the superintendents: A. D. Gaines, 1881, 3 years; E. E. Campbell, 1884, 8 years; Wm. Moore, 1892, 2 years; E. J. Donaldson, 1894, 1 year; E. E. Campbell, 1895, 2 years; W. W. Kilgore, 1897, 3 years; F. E. Lurton, 1900, 3 years; F. L. Bauer, 1903, 3 years; C. V. Pierce, 1906, 1 year; E. E. Chadwick, 1907, 3 years; F. E. Maxon, 1910. Until about 1894 the superintendent was both superintendent and principal. Since that date the superintendent has been relieved of the duties of principal.

As the years passed and the population grew, it was found necessary to erect a ward school for a part of the younger children, and accordingly a schoolhouse was completed on lot 3, block 3, in Billings' and Cummings' addition.

The village now has an ideal educational system in every way. The children who desire academic training are carried through the grades and through the usual four years' high school course, thus preparing them for college. Those who so desire are given normal training in addition to the usual work.

In keeping with the progress of modern times a new school was dedicated December 1, 1911, which is known at the Putnam school, and is the finest school building in this part of the state. In it general science, manual training, domestic science and agriculture are taught along the latest improved lines, and ample provision is made for physical culture and recreation.

Fourteen outlying school districts have voted to join the association system, bringing under the two mill tax system, an assessed valuation of about $1,125,000. In addition to the three buildings with a seating capcity of 700, surrounded by ample grounds, the district owns seventeen acres of land about one half

mile from the Putnam building, which is to be used for agricultural purposes, in connection with the school courses.

The class of 1911 brought the total number of graduates up to 342, most of whom are actively at work solving the problems of life in the efficient manner taught in the Spring Valley courses of study.

In 1862 only one teacher was employed. In 1912 twenty-one teachers are employed. In 1862 there were twenty-two pupils enrolled. In 1912 there are 530. In 1886 there were three graduates. The class of 1912 contains forty-two members. The total money required to conduct the school for one month in 1862 would not conduct the schools one half a day at the present time.

Spring Valley has just cause to be proud of its alumni, its carefully selected corps of seventeen teachers, its efficient board of education, and the increased popularity in which its schools are widely held.

The Preston Schools. The first school in Preston village was kept in the spring of 1856 in a log schoolhouse known as the "Davis schoolhouse," located on Main street near the river bank, near the west end of the street, and on the south side. From there the school was moved to the brick house still standing on lot 4, block 6, Barbara Kaercher's addition, afterward used as the Methodist church, and now used as a residence. This historic building in which so many Preston people were educated is one of the land marks of the village.

The commencement of the project for the graded schools of Preston was in the spring of 1865. The citizens, after discussing the matter, came to the conclusion that the plan was practical, and determined to carry it through. March 20, 1865, notice was given to all concerned that a meeting would be held to determine the public sentiment in the matter. The polls were opened April 1, 1865, and the count showed that there were seventeen in favor of, and two opposed to the enterprise. A board of directors was appointed and the necessary steps taken to have district No. 45 reorganized as an independent school district.

The schools grew rapidly, and it was soon found necessary to use the basement of the courthouse. In 1866 it was determined to build a new school, and after the usual preliminaries as to the issuing of bonds and the purchase of property, a brick schoolhouse was erected on the present school property. This building, with changes, is still standing. Two sets of bonds were issued, and the total cost was about $10,000.00, the building being completed and ready for use in the fall of 1868. The edifice, which at that time was regarded as a model school building, was two stories high, contained three rooms and an entry hall, and was well equipped for its intended purpose. Thus matters continued with the primary and intermediate departments on the lower

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floor and the higher department on the upper floor, the common branches being taught. March 30, 1881, the board passed a resolution that a high school be established, and that state aid be sought under the state laws of 1878.

September 4, 1883, at the annual meeting, Attorney A. D. Gray moved that a meeting be called for the purpose of considering the procuring of more suitable quarters for the rapidly growing school. The motion, however, did not bear fruit until January 6, 1885, when, at a special meeting, it was decided to issue bonds for the purpose of building an addition on the south side of the building then standing. The contract was let to Alex. Galbraith and John Wintey for $2,895.00 and the work completed ready for the opening of schools in the fall of 1885. September 1, 1887, appears the first mention of the school library, Professor W. J. Alexander being appointed the librarian.

April 11, 1890, it was voted to issue bonds for another addition to the building, the contract being awarded to Fred Neuman and John Wintey for $3,900. June 29, 1895, a contract was let to Morgan & Neuman to finish the upper floor of the new north wing, the contract price being $645.00. September 30 of the same year it was voted to borrow $1,500 for improvements.

December 18, 1897, the Preston high school became a member of the State Association of High School Boards. October 1, 1898, the treasurer reported that $1,366.73 had been lost by the failure of the Fillmore County Bank, and the next few years were occupied with litigation over this matter. The treasurer and his bondsmen were sued and judgment was had in the District court in favor of the school district for the full amount. An appeal was taken to the Supreme court and the judgment affirmed.

By 1900 the school had again become crowded, and an overflow school was held in the Masonic hall.

March 16, 1901, a contract was awarded for the building of a new high school, and later a contract was let for the installing of a new heating and ventilating system in both the old and the new buildings. The new building was completed and ready for occupancy October 29, 1901. April 25, 1903, it was decided to make application to the state for the establishment of a Normal department. August 19, 1905, an inventory of school property showed that the district was in debt $11,500, that its new building was worth $13,500, its old building $20,000 and its furnishings and supplies $4,441. May 29, 1909, the Board of Education took action requesting the village council to take steps toward securing a Carnegie Library. October 11, 1909, the School Board joined the State Society of School Boards. April 4, 1911, it was voted to establish a normal department, with Alice M. Ide as

teacher, the district to receive $750.00 annually from the state. April 20, 1911, application was made to the State High School Board to maintain at Preston an agricultural department in connection with the high school.

The graduates of the Preston High School during the first five years that classes were graduated were as follows:

1890—Nellie Foote, Albert Baker and Alfred Thompson.

1891—Louise Baker, Stella Gray, Lucy Gray and Jennie Taylor.

1892—Emma Schwartz, Celius Thompson, Nettie Gray, Agnes Cathcart and Josephine Finckh.

1893—Laura Renner, Grace Farrington, Nellie Wheeler, Minnie Hamre and Henrietta Rose.

1894—Albert Hart, Reuben Engle and Robert Kemple.

The present officers of the Preston School Board are: President, A. D. Gray; clerk, E. A. Highum; treasurer, C. M. Anderson; superintendent, L. N. Towle; trustees, Charles Snyder, Carl Kuethe and B. O. Kyseth.

Following are the principal officers since the beginning:

Trustees and directors—Thomas Quinn, April 14, 1865, to March 31, 1866, September 3, 1881, to September 6, 1884; Samuel Shuck, April 14, 1865, to September 1, 1881; S. B. Murrel, April 14, 1865, to March 30, 1867, March 26, 1870, to October 4, 1873; D. B. Coleman, April 14, 1865, to March 30, 1867, October 7, 1871, to October 9, 1871 (resigned); N. P. Colburn, April 14, 1865, to March 31, 1866, October 3, 1874, to September 7, 1878; W. T. Wilkins, April 14, 1865, to January 27, 1868 (resigned); Alexander Galbraith, March 31, 1866, to March 27, 1869; B. S. Loomis, March 30, 1867, to March 26, 1870; W. A. Hotchkiss, March 30, 1867, to March 26, 1870; V. M. Baker, January 27, 1868, to October 7, 1871; E. McMurtrie, November 27, 1869, to October 7, 1871; W. W. Fife, November 26, 1870, to July 16, 1897; A. Howell, October 7, 1871, to May 10, 1878; C. H. Conkey, October 9, 1871, to July 16, 1898; J. O'Brien, October 4, 1873, to July 21, 1888; H. A. Billings, October 3, 1874, to November 28, 1877; W. W. Braden, September 7, 1878, to September 9, 1882; Lars O. Hamre, September 9, 1882, to July 17, 1886; A. Weiser, September 4, 1883, to September 6, 1884, re-elected July 16, 1892, refused to serve; A. D. Gray, September 6, 1884, to the present time; Henry S. Bassett, September 6, 1884, to July 15, 1893; H. C. Gullickson, July 17, 1886, to July 20, 1889, re-elected on the last named date but refused to serve; George W. Hard, July 21, 1888, to July 18, 1891; O. H. Jacobson, July 20, 1889, to December 30, 1892; I. J. Parker, July 18, 1891, to July 16, 1897; Walter Engle, July 15, 1893, to July 18, 1896; J. H. Phillips, July 15, 1893, to July 16,

1910; G. W. Robinson, July 18, 1896, to July 15, 1899; Carl Kuethe, July 16, 1897, to the present time; Samuel A. Langum, July 16, 1897, to July 17, 1909; M. R. Todd, July 16, 1898, to September 23, 1898 (resigned); H. R. Wells, September 23, 1898, to July 16, 1910; A. W. Thompson, July 15, 1899, to July 19, 1902; F. C. Bailey, July 19, 1902, to July 9, 1906; C. M. Anderson, July 21, 1906, to the present time; Charles Snyder, July 17, 1909, to the present time; E. A. Highum, July 16, 1910, to the present time; B. O. Kyseth, July 16, 1910, to the present time.

Presidents—D. B. Coleman, March 31, 1866, to March 30, 1867; N. P. Colburn, April 25, 1867, to October 3, 1874, September 21, 1878, to September 4, 1883; H. A. Billings, October 9, 1874, to September 7, 1878; J. O'Brien, September 4, 1883, to July 21, 1888; A. D. Gray, August 4, 1888, to August 10, 1895, August 7, 1897, to the present time; C. H. Conkey, August 10, 1895, to August 7, 1897.

Clerks—W. T. Wilkins, March 31, 1866, to January 27, 1868; B. S. Loomis, January 27, 1868, to March 31, 1869; E. McMurtrie, March 31, 1869, to October 7, 1871; C. H. Conkey, October 9, 1871, to August 3, 1889, clerk pro tem., December 30, 1892, to July 15, 1893; O. H. Jacobson, August 3, 1889, to December 30, 1892; J. H. Phillips, July 15, 1893, to August 7, 1897; August 1, 1908, to July 16, 1910; Samuel A. Langum, August 7, 1897, to August 1, 1908; E. A. Highum to the present time.

Treasurers—N. P. Colburn, March 31, 1866, to March 30, 1867; W. A. Hotchkiss, April 13, 1867, to March 26, 1870; W. W. Fife, April 4, 1870, to October 9, 1871, May 10, 1878, to September 11, 1882, August 10, 1895, to July 16, 1897; A. Howell, October 9, 1871, to May 10, 1878; Lars O. Hamre, September 11, 1882, to July 17, 1886; H. C. Gullickson, August 7, 1886, to July 20, 1889; C. H. Conkey, August 3, 1889, to August 10, 1895; G. W. Robinson, August 7, 1897, to July 15, 1899; H. R. Wells, August 1, 1899, to January 12, 1910 (resigned); C. M. Anderson, January 12, 1910, to the present time.

Superintendents and principals—Up to 1891 the records speak of the man in charge of the schools as principal and superintendent interchangeably and indiscriminately. Since 1891 the one in charge of the schools has been known uniformly as superintendent, and since 1905 there has been, in addition, a lady principal. The appointments have been as follows: Superintendents and principals—E. J. Thompson, March 1, 1866, Levi Wright, October 31, 1868; W. H. Palmer, July 21, 1871; Philip H. Brady, August 12, 1875; E. P. Hickok, July 6, 1886; W. J. Alexander, July 28, 1887. Superintendents—E. E. Lockerby, August 3, 1891; W. W. Barnum, March 16, 1901; F. E. Lurton, August 11, 1903; Joel N. Childs, March 7, 1908; L. U. Towle, March 20, 1911. Principals—Gertrude Blair, appointed April 8, 1905, refused to serve;

Clara B. French, appointed April 8, 1905; Anna Hills, appointed March 31, 1906; Anna Woodhu, April 3, 1908; Amanda J. Hanson, May 29, 1908; Ina Scherrebeck, appointed April 4, 1911, refused to serve; Elizabeth Sheldon appointed April 4 1911.

The high school is maintaining at the present time the usual classical courses and in addition offers well sustained courses in manual training, domestic science, elementary agriculture, and normal methods. The enrollment has reached the entire seating capacity of the high school assembly room—85. Plans for association with neighboring rural districts under the Benson-Lee act are being matured and a well developed agricultural department will then become a feature of the work. In connection with the normal department a room has been fitted for a model rural school, pupils being taken from the various grades for this room.

Chatfield Schools. A small district schoolhouse was built in Chatfield in 1856, but the town had no public schools worthy of the name except the Chatfield Academy until March 8, 1862, when the Chatfield school district was incorporated by a special act of the legislature, under which act it is still conducted. In that year a system of graded schools was inaugurated on a small scale. The attendance and teaching force rapidly increased, and in 1865 a public school building was erected which was the pride of the town and one of the best in southeastern Minnesota. From time to time smaller additional buildings were erected, and for many years the subject of building a large and substantial school structure was agitated, resulting in the erection, in 1888, of the present fine brick school building, to which an addition was made in 1899, the whole costing with its equipment from $25,000 to $30,000.

Although a high school department was conducted from 1865, the first formal commencement was held on May 14, 1880, when a class of two, Kate Atchison and Emma Glissman, was graduated. Since that time the number of graduates has reached about 240.

Among the former principals or superintendents of the Chatfield schools the following names are most familiar: Gehiel L. Case, ——— Haines, E. J. Thompson, G. D. Crafts, Levi Wright, J. M. Miles, R. H. Battey, D. Davis, J. F. Giles, Helen A. Dunlap, Lela M. Klampe, E. J. Donaldson, F. J. Bomberger, H. L. Brown and R. L. H. Lord.

In 1912 E. B. Forney was elected to assume the duties of superintendent. Under him is a staff consisting of high school principal and two assistants, seven grade teachers, and instructors in music, domestic economy and agriculture.

By the special act under which the district exists, the board

consists of five members. From 1865 to 1904, a period of thirty-nine years, G. H. Haven acted as secretary. He was succeeded by E. W. Rossman, who served for part of a year, and then by Charles L. Thurber until 1907, when the place was filled by G. A. Haven, who still holds the position (1912). Dr. Charles M. Cooper was elected trustee in 1900 and is now president of the board. Hon. Joseph Underleak and Dr. F. L. Smith are also trustees, and George R. Thompson is treasurer.

The aim of the board has always been to maintain as good a school as possible with the means the district could reasonably afford. In the fall of 1911, under the Benson-Lee act, departments of domestic economy and agriculture were introduced, which have greatly increased the efficiency of the schools. The domestic economy department is fully equipped with the best of apparatus, and conducted by a very capable specialist in her line. The department of agriculture, under its director, C. H. Hanson, a man particularly well qualified for his place, has assumed a position of unique importance, not only in the curriculum of the school, but by his co-operation with the farmers and extension work in the rural school districts, he has done much toward interesting the farmers in scientific agriculture. Associated with the Chatfield district are five rural districts in Fillmore county and two in Olmsted county, and under this enlarged associated district the two industrial departments are carried on.—By George H. and George A. Haven.

Fountain Schools. Fountain has a graded school, with a two-year high school course. Four teachers are employed. The present school building was erected in 1893. The school board consists of L. S. Scott, chairman; J. O. Solie, treasurer; and Hiram Johnson, clerk.

The Mabel Schools. District 6 was organized in 1857, comprising eight sections of land and including what is now the village of Mabel. The district has ever since retained and still retains the same number and the same territory. The first schoolhouse in the district was erected in 1857, about a quarter of a mile east of the corporate limits of the present village of Mabel, and the first school was held in 1858, by James McDonald, teacher. In 1880 the first schoolhouse was found to be inadequate, and a new building was erected in the village of Mabel, on the site where the present school building stands, and the old schoolhouse was converted into a dwelling. The new schoolhouse contained three good sized rooms, and the teaching corps consisted of one principal and two grade teachers. In 1900 the present school building was erected and on the 1st of October of that year the new building was opened for school, with Thomas Cahill

as principal and five grade teachers. Thomas Cahill held the position as principal until the end of the school year in the spring of 1905. In the fall of 1905 the school district was changed from a common to an independent district, and is now known as Independent District No. 6. The same fall the high school was instituted and A. Ray Kent was elected superintendent and Jessie Abbott principal. In the spring of 1906 the first class was graduated from the Mabel high school, the members of that class being Gertrude E. Bacon, Hattie M. Dayton, Mathilda E. Fossum, Floy M. Glise, Walter E. Larson and Leonard Stensland. In the fall of 1907 Charles Youngquist succeeded A. Ray Kent as superintendent of the school, and in the fall of 1911 Mr. Youngquist was succeeded by Oliver D. Billing, the present superintendent. The members of the present board of education are E. C. Erickson, A. L. Tollefson, H. H. Hammer, A. A. Miner, M. C. Christopherson and E. G. Stensland. The school, besides the graded and high schools, maintains departments of manual training, domestic science and agriculture.—By H. H. Hammer.

The Wykoff School. The recorded history of School District 104, Wykoff, dates back only a comparatively short time. Its unwritten history is heard from the lips of many, who, in their younger days, received a part, if not all, of their education within its halls. The first school building of which there is record is now the west part of the William E. Ploof home, until recently known as the Park Hotel. To the original building in 1880 another room was added under the principalship of Mr. Hunt, now a farmer near Fountain, Minn. This was outgrown and in 1894 a new building 42x50 feet with basement was erected at the corner of Line and Bartlett streets. This burned in the spring of 1897 and the school year, under the principal, Ralph Turner, was completed at the village hall. The present four-room structure erected upon the site of the burned building was ready for occupancy early in the fall of 1897. The property of the district is valued at $5,000. It owns a library of 500 volumes, nearly 2,000 text-books and apparatus worth $200. The enrollment is over 100, doing two years' high school work in addition to the first eight grades. There are three teachers besides the supervisor of music and the principal. The members of the school board for July, 1911, to July, 1912, were Dr. M. D. Ogg, chairman; A. G. Spies, clerk, and W. S. Kidd, treasurer. Scattered throughout this state and others are many well known school men and men of note in other lines who in the past have been principals of the Wykoff school. Twice in its history it has had a woman as principal, the first about 1895 and during the year 1911-1912. Those who have been its students, too, are widely scattered, hold-

ing more or less responsible positions abroad or pursuing life in the vicinity of Wykoff.—By Edna I. Murphy, Principal.

The Harmony high school building was remodeled and enlarged in 1903. **The Rushford high school** building is one of the finest in this part of the state.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

THE NEWSPAPERS.

Importance of the Press—Present Papers in Fillmore County—First Paper in the County—History of Defunct Newspapers—Story of the Present Weeklies—Their Beginnings, Growth, Influence and Importance—Edited by F. E. Langworthy.

The newspaper of today is the history of tomorrow. Editors seldom think they write history. Your copy of the local paper may be used to wrap the family laundry, cover the panty shelf or be placed under the carpet. In a month from the time a newspaper is issued it would be difficult to locate a single copy, but in the newspaper office itself, it has been preserved and placed upon file. These files become an asset of the office and increase in value as the papers become yellow with age. Here in the musty volumes is found the history of your town, your county, your state. The history of this county could not be written were it not for the records of newspaper files. The State Historical Society recognizes the value of newspaper history and a complete file of every newspaper in the state is kept by the Historical Society. Inaccurate history, do you say? Perhaps so, and yet the most accurate it is possible to get, and infinitely more nearly accurate than almost any other historical source. The editor of a newspaper not only means to get correct information, but uses the source method for every important article he prints. Each day, if he edits a daily, each week, if a weekly, his effort stands before the bar of public criticism. His critics are those intimately concerned in the articles published. They do not trust to memory, hearsay, legend or tradition. They are eye or ear witnesses or star actors in the passing drama. They surely are trustworthy critics. With them the newspaper must pass muster. If facts are not stated correctly, they are corrected. The newspaper that is not substantially accurate cannot and does not live. Time gives authenticity. Criticism is forgotten, minor inaccuracies overlooked and the newspaper record stands as the accepted history of an event. A newspaper is not mere gossip. It is a record of passing events. Reports of buildings, new industries, biographies, social events, religious movements, births, deaths, politics, policies, honors that come to people, crimes which blacken

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our record, onward and backward moves in affairs; disasters, amusements, accidents, epidemics—all make up the newspaper history of a community. It is the mirror of life as it is daily lived here and now.

The newspaper is everywhere recognized as the adjunct of civilization. The town, however far removed from the busy marts of trade, clamors for a newspaper. Never satisfied until it gets one, and never satisfied after it has one. The newspaper is the nucleus of criticism for the entire community. Everyone knows how it should be run better than the editor. Its policies and its literature are criticized and yet people want it and at heart are loyal to it, for they recognize its value. They read it and want it to push along movements they are interested in. A religious revival, county fair, market day, civic improvement measures, new policies or politicians—all need the newspaper to give them an impetus. The press must arouse the people. Through no other avenue can so many be reached. A mass meeting can touch but a mere handful compared with the numbers reached in each issue of a newspaper.

Fillmore county has no daily papers. It has thirteen weeklies as follows: The Peterson Times, the Preston Republican, the Spring Valley Sun, the Spring Valley Mercury-Vidette, the Chatfield News-Democrat, the Wykoff Enterprise, the Fountain Review, the Lanesboro Leader, the Peterson Herald, the Rushford Star-Republican, the Harmony News, the Chatfield Reporter and the Mabel Record.

The Fillmore County Pioneer, published in Carimona, in 1855, was the first newspaper in Fillmore county. All the town proprietors of Carimona were interested in the project, but E. R. Tarsk was the nominal publisher. He was succeeded by O. J. Wright, who changed the name to the Carimona Telegraph. Mr. Wright transferred the paper to I. W. Lucas, who continued the paper for some time. Most of the editorials in this paper were written by H. C. Butler, an early lawyer. In speaking of the establishment of this paper, before the Fillmore County Old Settlers' Association, Mr. Butler, in 1897, said:

"I came to Carimona July 8, 1855, having walked from Winona, tired and footsore. I was induced to locate in Carimona by my friends, Hon. William Pitt Murray, of St. Paul, one of the most important factors in the moulding of territorial Minnesota. Five years before that time, in 1850, I spent the summer in his office in St. Paul. He induced me to locate in Carimona because himself, with Hon. David Olmsted, the first mayor of St. Paul, and Henry D. Huff, one of the earliest settlers, and one of the leading business men of Winona, were among the proprietors of the town. It was then expected that Cari-

mona, Oronoco and Cannon Falls would become the three most important inland cities of Minnesota. In this instance prophecy has not become history. Carimona was named from an Indian chief, a friend of David Olmsted.

"My first enterprise was to start a newspaper. The town proprietors contributed funds, and I put in what money I had for current expenses. I went to La Crosse and bought an old printing press which had been the pioneer printing press in Wisconsin, and we started a newspaper to boom the town and the county, called the Fillmore County Pioneer. That was the first newspaper in Fillmore county and the second in southern Minnesota. I wrote the editorials for a while until I got enough law business to occupy my time. I do not remember whether I was at any time the nominal editor or not. I preserved some copies of the paper for many years. The establishment changed proprietors several times, but finally shared the fate of many other brilliant enterprises. I saw the old press take its departure for some town in Iowa, with a sigh of relief. My interest, which cost me several hundred dollars, I sold for some real estate which I sold for $50, after paying taxes on it for ten years."

CHATFIELD.

The first number of the "Chatfield Democrat" was published on September 11, 1856, in Chatfield, by C. C. Hemphill, who started it upon the principles of Democracy. It was a six-column quarto sheet, all home print. In 1860 C. C. Hemphill sold the paper to J. W. Bishop, who was editor and manager of the "Democrat" for a little over a year, when it again changed hands. In the spring of 1861 John Harrison McKenny and his younger brother, James S., purchased the "Chatfield Democrat," which they published until the death of James S., J. H. continuing its publication, with the help of his sons until his death, which occurred in May, 1878. His two sons, Sylvanus S. and Harry B., then became the publishers of the "Chatfield Democrat," making it a strong defender of the Democratic principles which their father so long and ably advocated. In October, 1883, R. McNeill bought the paper of the McKenny boys and changed its politics from Democratic to Republican. He continued to publish the paper until the spring of 1889, when he sold it to F. T. Drebert. At this time the size was changed from a seven-column folio to a six-column quarto. In May, 1894, a second newspaper was started in Chatfield, called the "Chatfield News," with A. M. Wallace as editor and publisher. This paper changed hands several times, finally becoming the property of E. F. Harnish and F. G. Stoudt in 1899. In May, 1902, Messrs. Harnish and Stoudt, of the "Chatfield News," pur-

chased the "Chatfield Democrat" of F. T. Drebert and consolidated the two papers, continuing the publication under the name of the **Chatfield News-Democrat.** It is a six-column quarto, independent in politics. This is the oldest paper now in existence in Fillmore county, and never during its existence of over half a century has it postponed or missed an issue nor issued anything but its full sized sheet and always in its regular form.

PRESTON.

The Preston Times, established in 1860, in reality dates back to the "Chatfield Republican," established in 1856, and the third newspaper in the county. The first issue of the "Chatfield Republican" was printed on Saturday, October 25, 1856, at Chatfield. T. B. Twiford & Co. were the publishers, and H. W. Holley, editor. It was a six-column folio, furnished for $2 a year, if paid in advance, and $3 if paid later. The imprint declared it to be "A Weekly Family Newspaper, Devoted to Literature, Science, Art, Education, Mechanism, Agriculture, Horticulture, Politics, and General Intelligence." Although Minnesota had not become a state, and consequently had no vote in the presidential election, yet the names of "Fremont and Dayton" were run at the head of the new paper, and moral, if no more substantial support, given to the cause. On June 13, 1857, the names of O. Brown and H. W. Holley were announced as publishers. With number one, volume two, the paper was enlarged to seven columns and correspondingly lengthened. The whole paper was set up in the office, and it was a well edited and well printed journal. In 1859 the editor of the "Republican" was sued by the editor of the "Democrat" for libel, and a jury returned a verdict placing the damages at $100.

November 6, 1860, the paper was removed to Preston, and became the "Preston Republican," starting with a new volume and number. Elder Burbank became the editor with the removal to Preston, Brown having moved to Mankato in 1859, and Holley to Winnebago City in 1860, the latter becoming receiver of the public land office. Burbank sold to F. W. Hotchkiss, who managed it until turned over to his brother. With the number commencing on February 6, 1867, W. A. Hotchkiss took charge as editor and proprietor. The paper was a seven-column folio, all set up in the office, and was a fearless Republican sheet. In December, 1873, Major Hotchkiss procured a New Haven power press. On September 17, 1875, the paper, with the material and presses, was removed to Austin, and the name changed to "Mower and Fillmore County Republican," and so with number forty-seven, volume fourteen, its career in Preston came to a close for

a short time. In October, 1876, Centennial year, the "Preston Republican" was re-established by P. P. Wall as editor and proprietor. The Masonic Hall, still standing, was erected in 1875, and the following year a part of it was fitted up as a printing office for P. P. Wall, when he re-established the "Republican."

Henry S. Bassett purchased the paper from P. P. Wall, still retaining the old number and volume. Judge Bassett within a year transferred the paper to Henry R. Wells, who changed the name to "Preston Democrat" and afterwards sold it to Samuel A. Langum. Mr. Langum took possession in July, 1886, and changed the name to the **Preston Times**, its present title, still retaining the old number and volume, dating back to 1860. Mr. Langum has since continued to edit the paper, which is one of the influential journals of southern Minnesota. His foreman, Julius Johnson, has been with him since he first acquired an interest in the paper twenty-six years ago. In October, 1903, Mr. Langum sold a half interest in the paper to his son, Alfred H. Langum, who now has charge of the business end of the paper. During his administration of affairs the paper has greatly increased in circulation and in advertising patronage, and his infusion of new blood into the concern has been advantageous to the paper in every way. The "Times" is now published from its own building, its size increased to a six-column quarto, and its eight pages are filled with matter of its own composition.

The Preston Republican. September 17, 1875, Maj. W. A. Hotchkiss took his "Preston Republican" to Austin, and later another "Preston Republican" was started. Major Hotchkiss changed the name of his paper to the "Mower and Fillmore County Republican," and with number forty-seven, volume 14, its career in Preston came to an end. In 1879 it became the organ of the national party, and its name was changed to the "National Republican." In September, 1880, it went to Minneapolis, and in August, 1881, it was brought back to Preston. Major Hotchkiss issued the paper for many years. In October, 1903, the "National Republican" was purchased by Frank J. Ibach, the name changed from "National Republican" to "Preston Republican," and the politics changed from Populist to Republican. The paper is well edited, enjoys a good circulation, and has considerable influence. The office is well equipped with modern machinery, including a linotype machine, and is well equipped for newspaper publishing and job printing.

The Fillmore County Democrat was issued at Preston December 13, 1900, with H. W. Haislet as editor. It flourished a short time.

The Preston Journal. In 1856 a firm under the name of Getzel & Co. issued a prospectus for the Preston Journal, and having

issued a single number, as it is stated, and secured some assistance in the undertaking, failed to go on with the enterprise.

RUSHFORD.

The Rushford Star was started late in April, 1873, by T. H. Everts and Frank W. Drake. August 8, 1876, Charles R. McKenney purchased of Frank W. Drake, who had become sole owner. Mr. McKenney issued his first number August 11, 1876. It was captioned Volume IV, No. 14, and was a four-column quarto. At the end of the volume it was made a folio and has since changed size several times. McKinney sold to G. E. Kirkpatrick in August, 1885. Mr. Kirkpatrick sold to H. G. Forschler in October, 1901. Forschler sold to C. L. Foss in May, 1902. Mr. Foss, in the meantime, had issued several numbers of the Republican, starting March 1, 1902. When he purchased the Star he changed the name to the Star-Republican, still retaining the old Star number.

The Rushford Star-Republican. After purchasing the Star and combining it with his Republican, C. L. Foss continued the Star-Republican until April 18, 1912, when he sold out to T. R. Parish. Mr. Parish turned the office over to his son, J. E., who associated himself with C. A. Smaby, of the Peterson Herald. The new managers, J. E. Parish and C. A. Smaby, retained the old name and number, and issued their salutatory April 18, 1912, with Vol. 39, No. 49.

Labor Reform. This journal was started in April, 1872, and its life was prolonged by heroic sacrifices on the part of its editor and publisher, A. E. Ball, up to the month of July, 1873, when it was discontinued.

Rushford Gazette. This paper was started on January 1, 1867, by S. J. Brown, who afterwards sold one-half interest to S. S. Stebbins. After awhile the "Temperance Fountain" was started in connection with it. Charles D. Sherwood became proprietor. This publication was discontinued, and the "Southern Minnesotian" was started. This was a paper of character, and had considerable influence on the times. Brown & Sherwood were proprietors until September, 1868, when A. E. Ball & Co. bought the concern and managed it until the following April, when it was sold to S. J. Brown, who soon discontinued the publication.

In May, 1869, Frank H. Stout came from Stevens Point, Wis., and conducted a paper until 1870, when he went to Kansas. This was called the Rushford Era.

In April, 1871, Willis Osborne & Brother started The Rushford Journal, and conducted it until January, 1873.

SPRING VALLEY.

The Western Progress was established at Spring Valley in 1868 by Mrs. Bella French, who moved it to Spring Valley from Brownsville, Houston county. She was assisted in the work by "Till" Hutchinson. In the earlier seventies she sold the paper to Mr. Hutchinson, and accepted a newspaper position on a St. Paul daily. Mr. Hutchinson continued the paper for a time, and then sold to J. J. Sargent, who later transferred his interest to Col. M. T. Jones, who conducted it for a year and a half, after which he was accidentally killed August 18, 1879. Col. H. C. Van Leuven was hired to conduct the paper and later secured entire control. He continued as publisher until 1886, when he sold it to Will Meyers. In 1900 A. E. Pfremmer became its proprietor and continued its publication for eight years. Prof. E. E. Campbell, at that time principal of the Spring Valley schools, then purchased the paper, and after publishing it for a while, sold out to Henry Russell in 1899. November 3, 1903, the paper was transferred to F. E. Langworthy, who consolidated it with the "Mercury" under the head **Spring Valley Mercury-Vidette.** The paper is still conducted by Mr. Langworthy, and is a potent influence in the community.

The Mercury was established March 18, 1880, at Grand Meadow, Mower county, this state, by Langworthy & Son. On the first of August, following, it was moved to Austin, the county seat of that county. April 18, 1881, F. E. Langworthy became editor and publisher. April 15, 1882, the paper was moved to Spring Valley, B. F. Langworthy again entering actively into newspaper work, the firm being Langworthy & Son. This continued until October, 1899, when B. F. Langworthy retired from the business, owing to old age. The business has since been conducted by F. E. Langworthy.

The Spring Valley Sun enjoys a good circulation in this part of the state. Its two most prominent editors have been E. G. H. Adams and Sidney J. Huntley.

LANESBORO.

The Lanesboro Journal. This paper first saw the light on June 13, 1874, at Lanesboro. It was published by the Wall Brothers, the personnel being O. G. Wall and S. W. Wall. It was a six-column folio at $2 per year. It claimed to be rather an independent Republican paper, and started out with a business look. It was well printed and well edited, and was all printed in the office. O. G. Wall sold to Geo. Harding. Harding to L. P. Hunt,

A. H. LANGUM

Hunt to M. G. Fellows, Fellows to Robert Donald and Donald to W. W. Wall. In June, 1907, Mr. Wall, who was then the owner, disposed of the paper to Thompson & Cowing, a real estate firm of St. Paul. The firm sent W. E. Moore to take charge of the paper. He printed three issues and then left the village. Following this the shop was closed.

The Lanesboro Leader. This paper was first issued October 1, 1898, by Ola M. Levang, who had previously been engaged extensively in newspaper and magazine work in various parts of the country. The new paper was well received, and in a few months it had a circulation of over 1,000 copies. Year after year the circulation kept on increasing, until at the time Mr. Levang retired as its editor and publisher, in November, 1909, its circulation was over 22,500 copies, the largest circulation of any weekly newspaper in the southeastern part of the state at that time. During the eleven years Mr. Levang published this paper it was regarded generally as one of the most ably edited newspapers in the First congressional district. It had considerable political influence, strongly advocating the progressive principles within the Republican party. At the time of its sale it was transferred to C. L. Foss, until recently publisher of the Star-Republican at Rushford. A year later it was leased by him to the present editors, Messrs. G. E. Dorival and A. M. Olstad.

The Lanesboro Herald. This paper was first issued in September, 1868, by Lute Christie, and was for a time conducted with ability.

MABEL.

The Mabel Enterprise was established in December, 1884, by James Ostrander. During its early history it changed hands frequently and was owned at various times by the Russell Brothers (Charles F. and William), Gagen & Smalley, Daniel Gagen and Frank Bartholomew.

The Mabel Tribune. J. T. Wheaton purchased the Mabel Enterprise, Feb. 1, 1895, and established the Tribune. June 6, 1895, H. E. Wheaton purchaed a half interest, and the firm was known for some time as the Wheaton Brothers. The Wheaton Brothers enlarged the paper from a seven column folio to an eight column folio, and then changed it to a five column eight-page paper. J. T. Wheaton became sole owner in February, 1897. G. A. Terry was also connected with the paper for a while.

The Mabel Sentinel. George W. Growley purchased the Mabel Tribune and changed the name to the Mabel Sentinel and continued it until 1895, when he took his plant to North Dakota, leaving Mabel without a paper. The subscription list was sold

to S. A. Langum, of the Preston Times, who conducted a Mabel page in the Times for a while.

The Mabel Record was established in July, 1906, and the first number was issued August 3, 1906. Ernest R. Antrim was publisher, C. L. Christopherson, manager, and J. A. Nelson, editor. Mr. Antrim who had practical charge of the paper from the first, became sole owner and manager, August 9, 1907. It is worthy of note that Mr. Antrim has printed every issue himself, without missing a number, since August 3, 1906. The Record has a good circulation, has maintained a sound editorial policy, and is very popular in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa. It enjoys the confidence of the community, and has considerable influence among a large constituency.

PETERSON.

The Peterson Gazette was started about 1890 by S. A. L. Thompson. He sold to A. O. Alm, who discontinued the publication.

The Peterson Herald was started about 1897 by Jacob Tenny, who was quickly followed by M. A. Tolrud, N. J. Amble and L. B. Johnson in turn. Then the paper was discontinued for nearly ten years. In November Carl A. Smaby revived the publication and continued it until May 1, 1912, when, having become interested in the Rushford Star-Republican, he sold the Herald to the Commercial Club and C. E. Butler, of Preston, was engaged as editor and manager. Mr. Butler took charge with the issue of April 25, just previous to Mr. Smaby's departure, that issue being volume 3, No. 24. Mr. Butler issued three numbers and resigned. The business men then secured the services of Carl Olson, a newspaper man, who, after an interesting career in the theatrical business, became editor of the paper at Spring Grove, for which he was fitted by experience on several dailies in La Crosse. After a year in Spring Grove Mr. Olson came to Peterson in the spring of 1912 and assumed his present duties.

HARMONY.

Several attempts were made to publish a paper in Harmony during the nineties, but these attempts were all unsuccessful and short lived.

The Harmony News was started in 1897 by Daniel Gagen, who continued to publish it until February, 1899, when John P. Taylor purchased it and after a month's ownership sold it to L. O. Haugen, the present owner and publisher. The paper is Republican in politics and is interested in every movement that tends to advance the interests of the village.

CANTON.

In 1880 Harry T. Blair started the Canton Observer, the town's first newspaper. It was printed in the old Grange hall, which was first located on lot north of R. A. Sturgeon's drug store. The old building is now in a dilapidated condition on the rear of lots occupied by the pump shop. The Observer light shone for a few years and then went out on the departure of the editor. In 1895 the Leader, edited by H. O. Helgeson, ran for some time. In 1901 W. H. Dudley launched the Free Lance, turning it over to E. M. Eames in 1899. The Free Lance was originally published at Harmony. Editor M. A. Tolrud had charge of the Free Lance a short time. For a short time R. M. Bosworth edited the paper and then handed the quill to B. F. Stead, who conducted the paper until 1904, when he sold out to Geo. H. Iseminger, of Blooming Prairie. In the summer of 1907 Mr. Iseminger departed and the paper closed its career.

Canton was without a newspaper for a year and a half until in April, 1909, when Harry T. Boyd started the Canton Reporter. He equipped the office with power presses and placed the paper on a good business basis. In March 1, 1911, Editor J. S. Hatlestad, of Lane, S. D., bought the Reporter and at once began to improve the plant as well as to issue a more newsy paper. The Reporter is now on a solid footing and is well patronized by village and country about. In politics it is independent Republican.

FOUNTAIN.

Fountain Review. F. R. Haines established the Fountain Review in May, 1906. May 8, 1907, it passed into the possession of J. K. Johnson, who still conducts it.

The Radical. This paper was at first published in Fountain in 1880, and after being issued a year or so went to Rochester and remained a few months, after which it was again operated in Fountain. The editor and proprietor was C. S. Powers.

WYKOFF.

The newspaper has figured conspicuously in the life of the village since 1878, when F. C. Stowe began issuing the Dollar Weekly. He soon became discouraged and handed the reins over to C. S. Powers, of Fountain, who drove the vehicle in the interests of the Greenbackers. At the close of the campaign Mr. Powers gave way to Krueger Brothers, who, in 1879, established the Wykoff Record. The malady of non-support set in and became chronic, terminating the paper's career in three months'

time. In 1882 the News was started by A. R. Burkdel, but did not last long. Next came Jacob Fenney with the Advertiser, which prospered for several years. In the latter nineties A. M. Wallace brought the Preston Courier outfit to Wykoff and gave the village its first real newspaper. Following Mr. Wallace's removal to Fairfax the destiny of the paper was guided by C. E. Wilson, Emily Boyd and others until 1902, when the plant was purchased by Sidney J. Huntley. Mr. Huntley not only put new life into the sheet, but infused a new brand of energy and enterprise into the whole village, his efforts doing more to reinstate Wykoff upon the map than any previous attempt of individual or corporation. Mr. Huntley sold the Messenger to E. G. Kleck in 1907. Kleck had too many side issues in hand and the paper was allowed to drift until it completely lost its grip. The Enterprise then sprang into existence, the first issue appearing November 20, 1908, with E. P. Johnson and G. N. Sheppard at the steering wheel. In June, 1910, Mr. Sheppard dropped from the firm, selling his share to Mr. Johnson, who has since conducted the paper alone. The paper has a circulation of 800 and is Republican in politics.

C. H. SMITH

CHAPTER XXXV.

BANKS AND BANKING.

Financial History of Fillmore County—The Early Banks of Easton and His Partners—Many Old Banks Still in Existence —Story of the Starting, Growth, Progress and Standing of the Present Banks—Edited by M. Scanlan.

The first effort of the pioneer was to secure his location and to there erect a habitation. The question of livelihood was one of immediate importance and no sooner was the pioneer and his family provided with a place to live, however poor or temporary, than he began to break the ground for crops. Mills for grinding the grain and sawing lumber were also an early necessity, and as there were many articles of daily need which the soil did not produce, the establishment of general stores could not long be delayed. But even in the most primitive community money is a vital need. The money lenders followed fast in the footsteps of the pioneer. Before long it became apparent that there must be some sort of an institution of financial exchange. Private banks were usually established as an adjunct of some other business. Some continued for a few years only, but others gradually assumed the importance of national or state institutions. This to a large extent is true of the early history of Fillmore county. Today the county is on a sound financial basis and the prosperity of the community is shown by the financial statements of the various banks which handle the money of the people at large. The county now has twenty-one banks, six of these being national banks and fifteen of them being state banks. They are:

National: First National Bank of Chatfield, First National Bank of Preston, First National Bank of Spring Valley, First National Bank of Rushford, First National Bank of Mabel and the First National Bank of Harmony.

State: First State Bank of Chatfield, State Bank of Lanesboro, Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank of Lanesboro, Rushford State Bank, Peterson State Bank, State Bank of Mabel, First State Bank of Canton, First State Bank of Fountain, Exchange State Bank of Wykoff, First State Bank of Wykoff, First State Bank of Spring Valley, Ostrander State Bank, Farmers' & Mer-

chants' State Bank of Preston, State Line Bank of Prosper and the Harmony State Bank.

The First Bank. Gilbert & Easton commenced the banking business in Chatfield November 25, 1856. W. A. Gilbert was a member of congress from northern New York at that time and J. C. Easton was the resident member of the firm, having recently removed to Minnesota from New York. Mr. Gilbert withdrew from the firm after a year or two and the business was continued by Mr. Easton as a private bank until 1888, doing business during this period under the name of Root River Bank. It was the first bank doing business in southern Minnesota, except perhaps a private bank in Winona (which was later merged in the First National Bank of that city), and one of the very first in the entire state. Mr. Easton established a number of banks throughout southern Minnesota, at Caledonia, Rushford, Lanesboro, Spring Valley, Owatonna, Austin and Winnebago City, all of which were successfully conducted under his supervision for a long period of years. During this period from 1856 until 1883 he resided in Chatfield. Mr. Easton sold the Root River Bank to George H. Haven, a merchant of Chatfield, in 1888, and the business was continued by Mr. Haven under the same name (Root River Bank) until June 20, 1905, when it was incorporated as First State Bank of Chatfield, with G. H. Haven, president; Levi Bemis, vice-president, and S. E. Bibbins, cashier; these officers, with E. G. Bolles and G. A. Haven constituting the first board of directors. G. A. Haven became cashier October 1, 1905, and with the president G. H. Haven continues in the active management of the bank. Mr. Bemis, upon his decease in August, 1910, was succeeded by Ensign G. Bolles, the present vice-president. H. Fairbank was elected a director. The present board of directors are G. H. Haven, E. G. Bolles, S. E. Bibbins, G. A. Haven and H. Fairbank.

The policy of the bank is conservative, seeking first of all to protect its depositors and stockholders from all possible loss. That this policy has been successfully carried out is evidenced by the fact that during the nearly fifty-six years of its continuous existence, first as Root River Bank and later as First State Bank of Chatfield, no depositor has ever lost a dollar entrusted to its care or ever asked for the money due him without receiving it.

The Root River Bank first occupied the building on the west corner of Main and Fourth streets, a one-story frame structure, removing in 1870 to the two-story brick building corner Main and Third streets now occupied by First State Bank. So that during the nearly fifty-six years of its life it has had but one change of management. The present building was purchased by the bank in 1907 from J. C. Easton's estate and entirely rebuilt and refitted with modern fittings and appliances.

Following is the condition of the bank at the close of business April 18, 1912:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $273,257.10; overdrafts, $705.47; bonds and other securities, $23,300.27; banking house, furniture and fixtures, 6,387.65; total cash assets, $65,372.71; checks and cash items, $46.29; total, $369,069.49.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $25,000.00; surplus fund, $3,250.00; undivided profits, net, $3,776.59; total deposits, $337.042.90; total, $369,069.49.

The Rushford State Bank began business on March 7, 1867, as a private bank under the name of Bank of Rushford. The owners were Niles Carpenter and J. C. Easton, and the firm name was Carpenter & Easton. Previous to this Mr. Carpenter was auditor of Fillmore county and Mr. Easton was a capitalist and owner of several banks in Fillmore county. On November 21, 1872, George G. Stevens, of Rushford, purchased Mr. Easton's interest in the bank and the firm name became Carpenter & Stevens. Mr. Stevens was one of the early settlers of Rushford and owned the present business part of the town. The bank continued under this ownership until January 18, 1897, when they associated with them John Roberton, of Winona county, and Fred A. Olson, of Rushford, under the firm name of Carpenter, Stevens & Co. On November 29, 1901, Niles Carpenter sold his interest in the bank to George G. Stevens and the business was continued by Stevens, Roberton & Co. until John Roberton died and his son, James G. Roberton, and his brother, William Roberton, also M. A. Maland, became the new owners as Stevens, Roberton, Maland & Co. This was soon destined to be changed again, this time by the death of G. G. Stevens, which occurred March 16, 1903, and the remaining partners continued as Roberton, Maland, Olson & Co., until they incorporated as a state bank under the name of Rushford State Bank, which was done July 17, 1906. The officers, directors and stockholders were elected then and are now as follows: Wm. Roberton, president; M. A. Maland, vice-president; J. G. Roberton, vice-president; F. A. Olson, cashier.

The following is the last published statement made to the superintendent of banks, February 20, 1912:

Resources. Loans, $433,463.54; overdrafts, $2,380.61; real estate, fixtures, $7,400.00; banks, $94,342.44; cash, $16,650.69; items, transit, cash, $4,130.07; total, $558,367.35.

Liabilities. Capital, $25,000.00; surplus, $5,000.00; undivided profits, $638.75; deposits, $527,728.60; total, $558,367.35.

The general policy of this institution is prompt and careful attention to all business entrusted to it, no matter whether large or small. With ample capital and surplus it is in a position to

handle everything in line of banking business on a satisfactory basis.

When it began business in 1867 it occupied and owned its building where the Presbyterian church is now located, and ten years later purchased and occupied the present stone building which has been remodeled at different times to meet the demands of a growing business.

The Exchange State Bank of Wykoff was started as a private bank in the year 1880 by L. G. Kilborn, under the name of Exchange Bank of Wykoff, and occupied a small lean-to building in the center of the main business block. In the fall of 1887 L. G. Kilborn sold out his business to Fred Wendorf, who was at that time blacksmithing and selling farm machinery. Fred Wendorf then continued the business at the old stand until the fall of 1894, when he moved into a new and modern brick building, built in the same block by Mr. Wendorf, with a large and comodious vault for the better accommodation of the business which had outgrown its former location. On the morning of March 28, 1895, fire swept over and consumed the entire business block, with the exception of the new bank building, which had been completed and occupied only a few months, leaving it with its roof burned off, the only building remaining in the block. During the summer of the same year, 1895, the business block was rebuilt of brick, Fred Wendorf, banker, advancing the money necessary to carry on the construction of same, until its completion. At one time during this period about $20,000 was necessary to carry on the good work. On March 21, 1908, in accordance with a state law which had been passed prohibiting private banks in this state, the above named institution was organized into a state bank, with $15,000 capital stock, and twenty-one stockholders as organizers, as follows: Fred Wendorf, Otto A. Wendorf, John Wendorf, August Derenthal, A. F. Erdman, E. Erdman, C. J. Spies, D. C. Green, John L. Froehlich, John Lottes, Wm. S. Kidd, Dr. J. T. Dunn, Fred Evers, Louis Kidd, Fred Woltman, M. Egleston, Osmond Brakke, M. F. Flanagan, O. M. Rowley, A. F. Schroeder, E. L. Behring.

Since the organization of the bank the following stockholders have been added to the above list: Phil. Hoffman, C. V. Hoffman, Hedwig Affeldt, Will Hahn, E. G. Jeche, Cory Means, E. A. Erdman, Gust. Erdman, Wm. E. Grabau, Wm. Schmidt, B. D. Farrington, C. H. Farrington, John Grabau, Jr., F. W. Boyer, H. T. Dutcher, Prof. E. F. Wallman.

At the first meeting of the stockholders Fred Wendorf was chosen as president, August Derenthal as vice-president and John Wendorf as cashier. At the same meeting the following stockholders were elected as directors of said bank: Fred Wendorf,

August Derenthal, Dr. J. T. Dunn, A. F. Erdman and Fred Woltman.

The above officers and directors have been re-elected each year and are still holding their respective offices, excepting Dr. J. T. Dunn, who, having sold out his practice and moved to Albert Lea, Minn., resigned as a director. Wm. S. Kidd has been appointed as a director to fill the vacancy. John Wendorf, cashier, starting in with his father at the age of fifteen years as janitor, assistant bookkeeper and the like, has practically grown up with the business.

In the fall of 1910 the directors, having the wellfare of their patrons at heart, installed one of the American Bank Protection Company's electric burglar alarms, thus absolutely insuring their patrons against loss of their funds and valuable papers by burglary. They also have a nest of safety deposit boxes for rent to customers for the safekeeping of valuable papers, etc., where they are safe against loss by burglary, fire or other causes.

The bank is in a flourishing condition and earning good returns for its stockholders and adding to its surplus funds each year, and thus making it a stronger institution each year and safer as they grow older and stronger. The latest financial statement reads as follows:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $80,563.56; overdrafts, $119.04; other bonds, stocks, etc., $5,644.07; banking house furniture, etc., $5,654.92; due from banks, $38,044.56; cash on hand, $2,712.97; other resources, $307.53; total resources, $133,046.65.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $15,000.00; surplus fund, $2,500.00; deposits, $115,546.65; total liabilities, $133,046.65.

The policies of the officers and directors of this bank are to treat its customers fair, to give them an honest deal every time, to look out for their welfare the whole year around, and to provide safety and give them good returns for their earnings.

The First State Bank of Canton was organized and opened up for business as a state bank April 1, 1908, it being the successor of the Winnesheik County Bank. The incorporators were C. J. Weiser, president of the Winnesheik County State Bank, of Decorah, Ia.; R. Algyer, cashier of said bank, and F. A. Masters, of Canton, Minn.

The first officers of the First State Bank of Canton were C. J. Weiser, president; R. Algyer, vice-president, and F. A. Masters, cashier. There has never been any change and these are the present officers and directors of this institution. This bank was organized with a paid up capital of $10,000 and a surplus of $2,500. In 1911 the surplus was increased to $3,000.

It owns the building which it occupies, has enjoyed a nice and increasing business since its organization and has the good

will and confidence of its customers and the people in general. It conducts a general banking business in all its forms, besides collecting rents and taxes, making general collections, writing insurance and doing conveyancing. The bank and its officers are always ready ad willing to assist in any enterprise which is for the public benefit. The statement which follows, rendered February 20, 1912, shows the healthy and growing condition of this institution.

Resources. Loans and discounts, $107,640.66; overdrafts, $141.18; other bonds, stocks and securities, $3,000.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, $3,700.00; other real estate, $855.00; cash assets, $27,927.41; checks and cash items, $8.55; total, $143,272.80.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $10,000.00; surplus fund, $3,000.00; undivided profits, net, $2,677.95; total deposits, $127,594.85; total, $143,372.80.

The State Line Bank of Prosper was incorporated September 20, 1911. The first officers were: President, John T. Ask; vice-president, William Donald; cashier, G. O. Lermo. Directors, L. B. Whitney, R. H. Baker, William Donald, Oscar Dahl, M. D. Whitney, John T. Ask and G. W. Willford. The beautiful bank building, completed October 20, 1911, cost about $2,000. The doors were opened for business October 27, 1911. After the death of William Donald his place was taken by his wife, Mrs. Alice T. Donald. R. H. Baker resigned as director, and his place was taken by R. M. Miller.

The First State Bank of Mabel was incorporated September 9, 1907, and opened for business October 8, 1907, a fine bank building having been erected in the summer of that year. The incorporators were: W. C. Bacon, J. K. Strand, Lewis J. Larson, Knute Olson, Elias G. Stensland, P. C. Johnson and Nels H. Wiker. The directors were: W. C. Bacon, L. J. Larson, Knute Olson, E. G. Stensland, N. H. Wiker, E. C. Erickson and N. H. Nelson. The officers were: President, W. C. Bacon; vice-president, L. J. Larson; cashier, N. H. Nelson. There has been no change in the officers since organization. The assistant cashiers have been: George W. Nelson, Mabel J. Nelson, O. M. Weium and Anton L. Peterson, the latter of whom is serving at the present time.

The bank was organized by about twenty of the leading business men and farmers of Mabel and vicinity, all substantial and well-to-do men, and is one of the strongest in the county. The fine building, located in the center of the business part of the city, has a front of red pressed brick, with plate glass windows, and was erected in the summer of 1907, costing with vaults and fixtures $6,800.

Following is the latest financial statement:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $140,883.15; overdrafts, $96.44; banking house and fixtures, $6,836.26; total cash assets, $50,601.96; total resources, $198,417.81.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $15,000; surplus fund, $3,000; undivided profits, $2,153.18; total deposits, $178,264.63; total liabilities, $198,416.81.

The Ostrander State Bank was organized in 1903. The first officers were: President, H. O. Larson; vice-president, O. P. Hadland; cashier, A. J. Haugen; directors, C. M. Anderson, H. O. Larson, H. A. Skaarberg, O. P. Hadland and Theodore Wold. The first president, H. O. Larson, served two years, followed by C. M. Anderson, who served six years. He was succeeded by O. P. Hadland, who at present occupies the office. A. J. Haugen, the first cashier, served two years, followed by H. O. Larson, who is still serving. The vice-president is J. J. Hillestad. Lela M. Larson is assistant cashier. The assets of the bank amount to $85,000 and a general banking business is conducted along safe and conservative lines. The institution opened for business May 15, 1903, in the Salveson building. In 1910 a fine brick building was erected, its cost, including furniture and fixtures, being $4,000.

The State Bank of Lanesboro was started as a private bank in 1900 and in 1905 was chartered as a state bank, No. 555. It has had the same president and cashier since the beginning, with the exception of the years 1905 to 1908, when J. O. Blekre was cashier. He died in 1909. The capital is $15,000; the surplus is $2,000. There are deposits of $100,000, and a like amount is loaned. The policy of the bank has been conservative combined with enterprise, and the patrons are afforded every favor that is consistent with a sound banking policy. The officers are: President, S. A. Nelson; vice-president, C. O. Krogstad; cashier, P. A. Nelson; assistant cashier, A. M. Hanson; directors, S. A. Nelson, P. A. Nelson, C. O. Krogstad, A. P. Lommen, H. O. Benson, E. J. Bothun, M. W. Williams, A. M. Hanson and Martin Carlson.

The Peterson State Bank was started May 1, 1908, and was incorporated fifteen days later. September 15 of the same year the company erected a fine one-story brick building on its lot, at a cost of $2,450. The incorporators and first officers of the bank were: President, C. M. Anderson; vice president, N. J. Amble; cashier, C. E. Retrum; directors, Elmer Halvorson and G. P. Haslerud. These gentlemen with P. A. Retrum were the incorporators. The president and vice-president have served since the beginning. O. S. Retrum succeeded C. E. Retrum as cashier May 1, 1909. Hilda Thompson became assistant cashier in January,

1912. The policy of the bank is to do business on strict business principles. The capital is $10,000 and the bank has a surplus of $2,000 and deposits of $78,000. It has loans of $80,000; its banking house, furniture and fixtures are valued at $4,000, and its cash resources are $8,000.

The First State Bank of Spring Valley was organized 1872 as a private bank by Farmer & Easton who operated for seven years, when Easton's interest was taken over by Strong & Edwards. The new firm transacted business as a private bank under the firm name of Strong, Farmer & Edwards until the year 1899, when it was incorporated as a state bank with an authorized capital of $30,000. The officers and directors elected at that time were W. H. Strong, president; John Leuthold and G. M. Warren, vice-presidents; B. F. Farmer, cashier; E. M. Edwards, assistant cashier; directors, W. H. Strong, John Leuthold, G. M. Warren, S. H. Hale and Burdett Thayer.

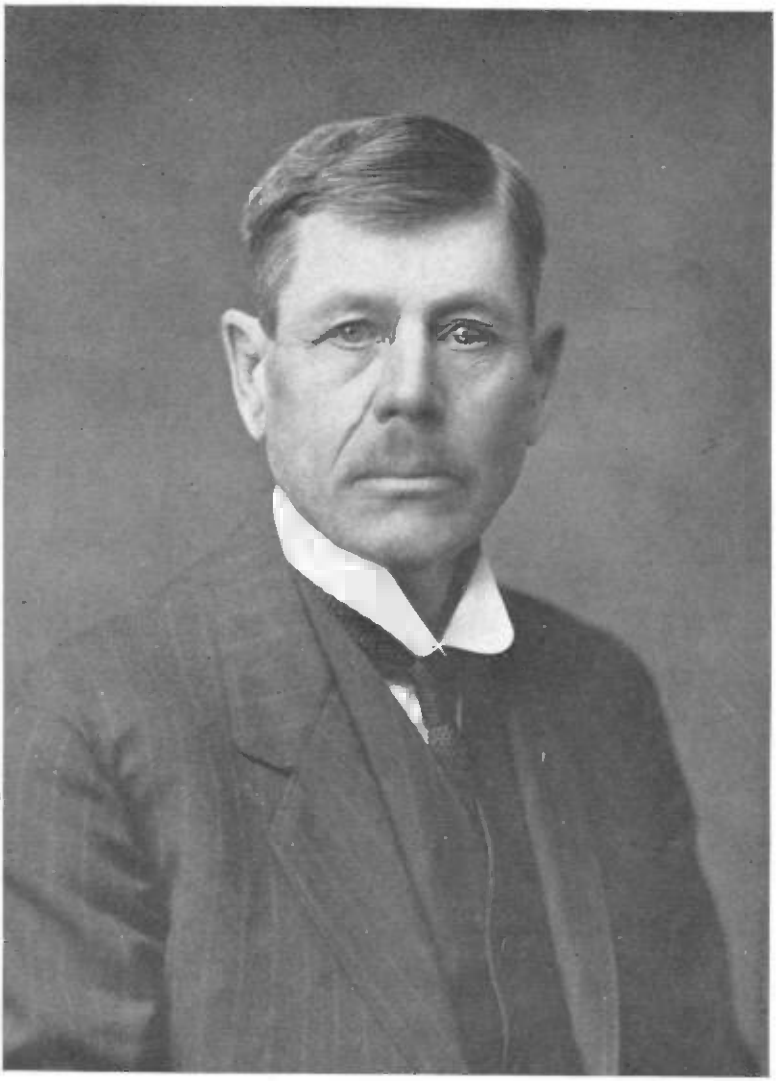
W. H. Strong was the bank's active president from the time of his first election until his death in September, 1909, when he was succeeded by C. H. Smith, who has been president to the date of this issue.

B. F. Farmer held the office of cashier up to the time of his death, in 1901, when he was succeeded by F. V. Edwards, who served in that capacity until in 1904, when he tendered his resignation, and was succeeded in 1905 by his brother, E. M. Edwards, who had served the institution since its incorporation as assistant cashier. E. M. Edwards held the office of cashier up to January, 1912, when he tendered his resignation to the board of directors, and the vacancy was then filled by the election of R. E. Shephard, who is the present cashier.

The bank is doing business in its own building which was erected in 1889 at a cost of $18,500. The policy of the bank has ever been, and is today, to render the best possible banking service to its patrons, catering to no class or clique, but endeavoring to use every one alike in a fair and square, "above board" business manner, and to extend to its patrons every courtesy consistent with safe and sound business methods.

C. H. Smith, the president, is a capable leader with wide business experience, who devotes a great deal of time in overseeing the workings of the institution and whose financial strength is the hub to the wheel of the bank. John Leuthold, a former resident of Spring Valley, but at present in St. Paul, is well known for his business integrity and ability; his financial strength and timely suggestions are also a great benefit to the institution.

G. M. Warren, one of the oldest residents of Spring Valley, is a man well known to local people for his conservatism; is a man who has been successful in his own business and whose



Adolf Sanderson

timely suggestions along business lines are looked to as one of the large assets to the workings of the bank.

R. J. Parker, one of the directors, and a leading attorney in the county, is always ready with legal advice and authority and passes on all abstracts for the loans made by the bank, thus avoiding any chance for loss through a deficient title.

S. H. Hale, one of the directors, and the leading farm implement dealer in Spring Valley, is a man of wide acquaintance, and his advice is looked to in extending credit on short time accommodation loans.

R. E. Shephard entered into active service with the bank on April 11, 1905, as a clerk. In January, 1907, he was elected assistant cashier, which position he held until January 12, 1912, when he was elected cashier to succeed E. M. Edwards.

H. H. Steffens came to the bank February 1, 1910, in the capacity of assistant cashier, which position he holds at the present time. He entered the employ of the Citizens' Bank of Spring Valley, a private bank, in 1900, and held the position of assistant cashier of the First National Bank of Spring Valley from 1902, when the Citizens' Bank was merged with the new institution, until January, 1908. From 1908 to 1910 he had experience in Hurdsfield and Carrington, N. D., banks, removing to Spring Valley in 1910 to assume his present position.

The history of the bank would not be complete without making mention of the able stenographer and bookkeeper, Grace C. Stephenson, who has been with the bank only a short time but who has already proven her worth as to her willingness and ability.

And as a fitting climax there is here submitted the last published statement. Condition at close of business April 18, 1912:

Resources: Loans and discounts, $325,005.23; banking house furniture and fixtures, $10,500.00; cash on hand and in banks, $100,112.28; total, $435,617.51.

Liabilities: Capital, $30,000.00; surplus, $30,000.00; undivided profits, $2,070.27; deposits, $373,547.24; total, $435,617.51.

A motto of the bank is: "We are large enough and strong enough to meet your every need."

The Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank, of Lanesboro. In August, 1868, the village of Lanesboro was organized by a stock concern, known as the Lanesboro Company, the principal mover being Clark W. Thompson, who was very active in pushing through here the construction of the Southern Minnesota, now a branch of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. In 1869 J. C. Easton, of Chatfield, established a private bank which he called the Bank of Lanesboro, the officers being: President, Jason C. Easton; cashier, Charles Josceylin; assistant cashier, C. F.

Easton. In 1878 O. G. Wall and M. Scanlan purchased J. C. Easton's interests and good will, and continued the institution as a private bank, with Mr. Scanlan as president and Mr. Wall as cashier. In 1895 O. G. Wall, now deceased, withdrew from the bank, and disposed of his interests therein to M. Scanlan, his former partner. At this time the Bank of Lanesboro was somewhat impaired financially on account of the failure of the infamous N. W. Guaranty Loan Company of Minneapolis, which collapsed in 1893. From this source the Bank of Lanesboro suffered to the extent of $20,000, forty per cent of which amount was issued by this company as fictitious paper. In fact the managers of this N. W. Guaranty Loan Company gathered its victims from all parts of the country and from all walks of life. However, the proprietor of the Bank of Lanesboro, after O. G. Wall withdrew, assumed all the liabilities of the bank and all depositors were paid in full. The Bank of Lanesboro continued under the management of M. Scanlan until 1897, when a partnership was formed with O. M. Habberstad, of Lanesboro, M. Scanlan being the president and O. M. Habberstad the cashier. The result of the latter co-partnership was that the bank prospered greatly, and grew to an extent far beyond the expectations of the owners. This partnership existed until September, 1907, when the Bank of Lanesboro was incorporated and merged into a state bank as the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank. The incorporators were M. Scanlan, O. M. Habberstad, O. S. Knudsen, M. V. Bean, A. J. Lund, John Solberg and C. H. Schansberg. The first officers elected under the new management were M. Scanlan, president; John Solberg, vice-president; O. M. Habberstad, cashier, and O. S. Knudsen, assistant cashier. The directors are the most reliable business men of Lanesboro, namely: M. V. Bean, A. J. Lund, C. H. Schansberg, John Solberg, O. S. Knudsen, and these gentlemen have been elected in succession for each year up to the present time. Following is the latest statement of the condition of the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank, and a comparison of deposits, since the time of the organization as a state bank:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $503,537; overdrafts, $352.97; bonds, $7,000; banking house furniture and fixtures, $9,755; cash on hand and due from banks, $173,550.28; checks in transit, $37.81; total, $694,233.06.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $25,000; surplus and profits, $10,908.42; deposits, $658,324.64; total, $694,233.06.

Deposits. February 20, 1908, $312,711.78; February 20, 1909, $367,142.25; February 20, 1910, $506,074.39; February 20, 1911, $567,232.40; February 20, 1912, $658,324.64.

The Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank building was erected in 1885 by Scanlan & Wall, at a cost of $5,000. Originally, the Bank

of Lanesboro was located on the first floor of the north side of the Lanesboro Hotel, commonly called the Stone Hotel, until its destruction by fire in 1885, at which time the present bank structure was erected in block sixteen, Lanesboro. The prosperity of the Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank for the future depends largely in its close relationship with and for the success of the farmers. Their success is well assured, as they are putting into practice all the modern methods in husbandry.

The Farmers' & Merchants' Bank, of Preston, was organized by forty-six stockholders, March 27, 1911, with a capital of $25,000. The first officers were: President, Tollef Sanderson; first vice-president, S. A. Langum; second vice-president, E. K. Blexrud; cashier, T. I. Garratt; assistant cashier, L. J. Luhmann; directors, Tollef Sanderson, E. K. Blexrud, S. A. Langum, H. A. Larson, Max R. Cluss, W. T. Burmeister and A. G. Olson. The officers and directors are now the same, with the exception that R. E. Thompson is a director in place of W. T. Burmeister. March 27, 1911, the loans and discounts of the bank amounted to $123,119.55, and the deposits, $178,493.55. June 10, 1912, the loans and discounts amounted to $207,188.65 and the deposits amounted to $264,079.11. This growth speaks for itself as to the success of the institution. The Farmers' & Merchants' Bank succeeded the National Bank of Preston, March 20, 1911, when the following resolution was passed: "Resolved, That in consideration of the National Bank of Preston transferring, assigning and turning over all its property and assets of whatever kind or nature to the Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Preston, the said Farmers and Merchants State Bank hereby assumes and takes over all the liabilities of said National Bank of Preston.

The Harmony State Bank is one of the solid financial institutions of the county, some of the leading citizens of the county being interested in its management. It was started by Tollef Sanderson as a private bank in April, 1893, and was conducted as such until June 1, 1904, when it was organized as the Harmony State Bank. The first officers were: President, Tollef Sanderson; vice-president, Tallak Brokken; cashier, James S. Jacobson; directors, John Jacobson, O. N. Thundale and D. A. Mosher. James S. Jacobson died April 7, 1911. The present officers are: President, Tollef Sanderson; vice-president, D. A. Mosher; cashier, R. W. Daniels; assistant cashier, T. S. Brokken. The directors are the Messrs. Sanderson and Mosher, with Henry Nupson, O. M. Thundale and T. T. Brokken.

The statement of the condition of the bank at the close of business February 20, 1912, was as follows:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $301,328.44; overdraft, $1,754.02; real estate and bonds, $8,220; banking house, furniture

and fixtures, $9,169.65; cash on hand and in banks, $111,686.10; total, $432,158.21.

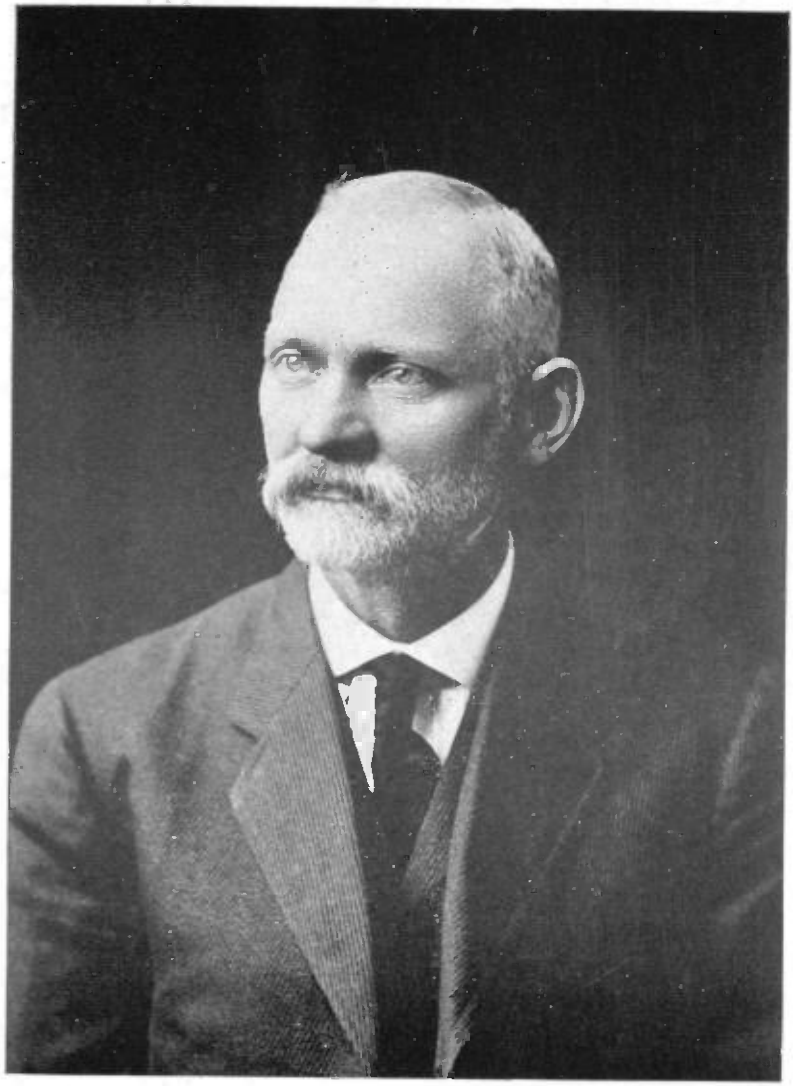
Liabilities. Capital stock, $20,000; surplus, $11,000; undivided profits, $4,992.75; deposits, $396,165.46; total, $432,158.21.

NATIONAL BANKS.

The First National Bank of Preston was the first national bank organized in Fillmore county, having been chartered May 8, 1902. The bank was first organized by C. M. Anderson, of Lime Springs, Iowa, and A. W. Thompson, of Preston, Minn. The original stockholders were C. M. Anderson, A. W. Thompson, George A. Love, R. E. Thompson and A. D. Gray. Later Henry Nupson, Thomas J. Meighen, H. S. Bassett and Jerome Utley became interested, also E. S. Holton and William J. Meighen. The board of directors designated in the articles of incorporation consisted of A. W. Thompson, Thomas J. Meighen, Henry Nupson, E. S. Holton, W. J. Meighen, C. M. Anderson and George A. Love. A. W. Thompson became the first president; Thomas J. Meighen the first vice-president, and C. M. Anderson the cashier. The latter has "stood by the wheel" to the present time, and has been an important factor in its success. Six months after organization, Thomas J. Meighen became president and Henry Upson, vice-president, an arrangement that has proven so satisfactory that they have been continued in office to the present time. The assistant cashier, by no means less important in the make-up of the official staff, is the painstaking and genial E. T. Schoenbaum. He learned the combination to the safes and the vault doors on the morning of August 4, 1902, when the bank opened for business, and with a few exceptions has opened the doors every working day since that time.

The bank opened its doors for business, as stated, on August 4, 1902, in the Odd Fellows block, Preston. The lease on this location expires July 1, 1912. The bank having purchased the Weiser block February 1, 1912, immediately commenced to remodel the room on the corner of St. Paul and Main streets, and by the time this work is issued will be in their new quarters. The new location is fitted with one of the finest vaults in this part of the state, and the banking rooms present every facility for doing a large business.

The aim of the bank is carefulness in its usefulness—to be useful to the people in its community—to encourage useful enterprizes which will help develop resources that will go to foster more energy and enrich the people of its vicinity. The bank has been successful from the start. The original capital is $25,000. The profits of the bank aside from the annual dividends have



H. O. LARSON

built up a surplus and undivided profit of $20,000. The shareholders in the bank are substantial men who have accumulated wealth by conservative management of their personal affairs, and the same character is reflected in the management of the bank. It is only fair to conjecture the future of this institution by comparing its past record in saying that the people of Preston may well feel proud that they have one of the solid banks of the county in their town.

The First National Bank of Rushford started business in January, 1903. It was incorporated in 1902 by Niles Carpenter, who had been in the banking business in Rushford about forty years. The first officers were: President, N. P. Colburn; cashier, Niles Carpenter; assistant cashier, E. H. Highum; directors, Lewis Knudson, Thomas Kierland, J. Webster, H. W. Eldred and L. Tagland. After Mr. Colburn's resignation Mr. Carpenter was elected president. Mr. Carpenter resigned in January, 1910, and was succeeded as president by H. W. Eldred. L. Tagland was appointed cashier during the fall of 1906. J. M. Webster was at the same time made assistant cashier, having previously been employed in the bank for about a year. J. Webster is the vice-president. The bank owns its building, which was purchased from Hiberg & Hazard, the structure having formerly been occupied as a drug store.

The condition of the bank at the close of business April 18, 1912, was as follows:

Resources. Loans and discounts, $129,411.56; bonds, $8,000.00; banking house, furniture and fixtures, $9,296.93; due from banks, $29,192.08; cash in bank, $8,341.96; total, $184,242.53.

Liabilities. Capital stock, $25,000.00; surplus fund, $2,500.00; undivided profits, $2,511.04; circulation, $7,000.00; deposits, $147,231.49; total, $184,242.53.

The First National Bank, of Harmony, was started in 1907, and that year erected a building at a cost of $6,500. The incorporators were: E. L. Tollefson, O. H. Tollefson, E. C. Hellickson, J. A. Lund, H. E. Hanson, W. T. Burmeister, H. C. Hellickson, P. M. Oistad, R. W. Daniels and C. J. Scofield. The officers are: President, H. C. Hellickson; vice-president, W. T. Burmeister; cashier, P. M. Oistad; assistant cashier, A. G. Johnson. The directors are: W. T. Burmeister, Peter McKay, H. C. Hellickson, O. H. Tollefson, Theodor Michel, H. E. Hanson and E. C. Hellickson. Capital, $25,000; surplus and profits, $6,000; deposits, $270,000; loans and discounts, $225,000; cash and due from banks, $60,000.

The First National Bank of Mabel. The first bank in Mabel was started in 1880 or 1881, in a building, later occupied by the First National Bank, erected for banking purposes by Frank

Adams, and capital from Dubuque. The establishment was opened by a Mr. Aubrey, who, though a very capable man, was forced to discontinue the bank, owing to lack of patronage and limited capital. In 1893 E. L. Tollefson started a private institution, called the Bank of Mabel. It was conducted in the E. L. Tollefson store, with E. L. Tollefson as sole owner and A. L. Tollefson as cashier. In 1894 O. H. Tollefson became assistant cashier. The business grew rapidly and in 1897 had assumed goodly proportions. Consequently Mr. Tollefson purchased the bank building erected in the eighties, which for a number of years had been used for various purposes, and remodeled it, building an addition and making the place in every way suitable for a successful banking business. In addition to housing the banking business, the building has two offices in the rear, on the ground floor; and the second floor, which has formerly been used for lodge purposes, is now used for club rooms. In 1901 JC White moved to Mabel and became attorney and assistant cashier of the institution.

In 1908 the bank was incorporated as the First National Bank of Mabel and was chartered as National Bank No. 9031. The incorporators were: E. L. Tollefson, Betsey Tollefson, JC White, Amy T. White, A. L. Tollfeson and Grace J. Tollefson. The officers were: President, E. L. Tollefson; vice-president, JC White; cashier, A. L. Tollefson. On the death of E. L. Tollefson, Mrs. Betsey Tollefson was elected president. In 1909 Ed. J. Johnson came from Adams, Minn., and his services having proven satisfactory, has been made assistant cashier. G. W. Brace, Lennie Larson and Olaf M. Weium have been bookkeepers in the institution. The policy of the bank has been to accord its customers the most generous treatment consistent with a safe conservative course. Like its founder E. L. Tollefson, the bank is doing its utmost to upbuild the community, and the institution is largely conducted with that end in view.

The statement rendered April 18, 1912, showed the bank to be in a flourishing condition.

Resources: Loans and discounts, $197,043.58; overdrafts, $2,429.95; United States bonds, $25,000.00; other bonds, $21,013.32; banking house and fixtures, $6,953.15; cash and due from banks, $129,510.63; redemption fund, $1,250.00; total, $383,200.63.

Liabilities: Capital stock, $25,000.00; surplus, $1,850.00; undivided profits, $4,491.90; circulation, $16,200.00; deposits, $334,658,73; reserved for interest, $1,000.00; total, $383,200.63.

The First National Bank, of Chatfield, was started as a private bank about January 1, 1880, by I. H. O'Ferrall and Charles Trego. At that time it was known simply as the Chatfield Bank. About 1883 the bank was operated by S. M. Onstine and C. W. Doud; later by Lombard, Ober & Jones; still later by Lombard,

Ober & Underleak. Then it was conducted by the firm of A. L. Ober and S. Burnap (Ober & Burnap) until its incorporation, all the time being known as the Chatfield Bank. April 1, 1903, the institution was incorporated as the First National Bank. The incorporators were A. L. Ober, Sidney Burnap, Joseph Underleak, H. S. Griswold, Milo White, Sr., and F. C. Lovell. These gentlemen were also the first directors. The first officers were: President, A. L. Ober; vice president, H. S. Griswold; cashier, Sidney Burnap. A. L. Ober served as president from the incorporation until December 26, 1911, when he was succeeded by Joseph Underleak. Sidney Burnap served as cashier from the incorporation until January 15, 1910, when he was succeeded by F. G. Stoudt. Mr. Stoudt has been associated with the bank since November 1, 1909. I. E. Ober, assistant cashier, entered the Chatfield Bank on November 15, 1899, and has been with the First National Bank since its incorporation. Knute Olson, assistant cashier, has been with the bank since June 1, 1907. The institution does a conservative banking business, and is a substantial factor in the financial integrity of the people from three counties. The First National Bank opened its doors for business April 1, 1903, occupying the building erected about 1879 by I. H. O'Ferrall for the old Chatfield Bank, and occupied by that institution from the time it began business until its incorporation as the First National Bank. The old banking rooms were remodeled in 1903, the vault room doubled, and new fixtures installed, making pleasant and commodious quarters.

Following is the report of the institution rendered at the close of business, April 18, 1912.

Resources: Loans and discounts, $275,313.81; overdrafts, secured and unsecured, $1,634.98; U. S. bonds to secure circulation, $25,000.00; premiums on U. S. bonds, $1,000.00; bonds, securities, etc., $18,224.60; banking house, furniture and fixtures, $7,122.07; other real estate owned, $6,458.00; due from national banks (not reserve agents), $7,664.25; due from state and private banks and bankers, trust companies, and savings banks, $3,233.41; due from approved reserve agents, $31,548.36; checks and other cash items, $292.66; notes of other national banks, $70.00; fractional paper currency, nickels and cents, $101.25; lawful money reserve in bank, $20,584.75; redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation), $1,250.00; Total, $399,498.14.

Liabilities: Capital stock paid in, $25,000.00; surplus fund, $25,000.00; undivided profits, less expenses and taxes paid, $2,917.70; national bank notes outstanding, $25,000.00; due to other national banks, $383.84; due to state and private banks and bankers, $2,249.11; individual deposits subject to check, $92,195.69; time certificates of deposit, $208,825.50; notes and bill redis-

counted, $17,920.00; liabilities other than those above stated, $6.30; Total, $399,498.14.

The First National Bank of Spring Valley was organized in the summer of 1902 and opened for business on July 2 of that year. It succeeded the Citizens' Bank, which had been owned and operated as a private bank by Everett Jones for about ten years. A number of capitalists from Winona, together with Mr. Jones and several other local people were instrumental in organizing the bank and taking over the Citizens' Bank's business. The first president was W. P. Tearse, of Winona. Everett Jones was its first vice-president and J. H. Davis, of Winona, its first cashier. Mr. Davis remained with the bank for one year only at which time he resigned and Everett Jones succeeded to his position, which position he held until January 1, 1910. At the end of the first year T. L. Beiseker, formerly of Austin, Minn.; now of Fessenden, N. D., purchased a large interest in the bank from the stockholders at Winona and became its president, occupying that position until January 1, 1908, at which time Mr. Beiseker's entire holdings were purchased by local people. It has been owned and controlled entirely by local people since that time.

When Mr. Beiseker sold out, F. J. Harris, a hardware merchant of Spring Valley, was elected his successor as president, which position he still holds. Mr. Harris was vice-president during Mr. Beiseker's presidency.

H. H. Steffens, who was employed as bookkeeper in the Citizens' Bank from July, 1900, until the organization of the First National, was elected the first assistant cashier and occupied that position until January, 1908, at which time Lyle Hamlin, who had been with the bank four years as bookkeeper, was elected assistant cashier. Upon Mr. Jones' resignation in 1910, Mr. Hamlin was elected cashier to succeed him, which position he has held since that time. J. W. Barber was elected assistant cashier in January, 1910, which position he still holds.

The present corps of officers consists of F. J. Harris, president; C. A. Gilbert, vice-president; Lyle Hamlin, cashier; J. W. Barber, assistant cashier. The present board of directors who are owners of about three-fourths of the entire stock of the bank, are: F. J. Harris, C. A. Gilbert, J. B. Sample, D. M. Peshak, Julius Krause, R. J. Parker, H. E. King, Wm. Affeldt and M. E. Molstad.

Mr. Harris, the president had been in the hardware business in Spring Valley for more than twenty years. He has been very successful in his business and is a man who is widely known and trusted in a large territory surrounding Spring Valley.

C. A. Gilbert, the vice-president is a farmer living about two miles east of Spring Valley. He owns one of the finest farms in this part of the country.

Mr. Hamlin, the cashier was born near Cherry Grove about ten miles southeast of Spring Valley, is a graduate of the local high school, and studied law at the University of Minnesota. He entered the employ of the bank in 1904 and has been with it ever since.

Mr. Barber, the assistant cashier was formerly the agent of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway at Spring Valley for many years.

The capital of the bank is $50,000.00, and the surplus fund is $10,000.00, which has been all earned since its organization. It has deposits of $325,000.00 at the present time and total resources of nearly $450,000.00. The business of the bank has steadily grown since its organization, but it has made an especially rapid growth during the last three years. The general policy of the bank is to do for its customers upon a reasonably fair margin of profit, everything that a good bank ought to do, and if it can be a medium of exchange of money aud credits for Spring Valley and vicinity, and in doing this reap a reasonable amount of profit for its stockholders, the ideals for which its officers stand will be realized. The bank occupies its own building, which was erected in 1903 at a cost of $15,000.00. It is one of the most modern and up-to-date buildings in this part of the state.

Below is a statement of the bank taken from its business, June 1, 1912.

Resources: Loans, $262,492.25; United States and other bonds, $54,805.38; banking house and fixtures, $14,979.53; cash and dues from banks, $104,428.45; Total, $436,705.61.

Liabilities: Capital stock, $50,000.00; surplus and profits, $10,485.48; circulations, $50,000.00; deposits, $326,220.13; Total $436,705.61.

FORMER BANKS.

The Fillmore County Bank. This institution was organized September 26, 1886, by J. R. Clements, M. R. Todd and Mrs. J. F. Greenleaf, and commenced business in Preston on that date. Business was conducted in a wooden building where the post-office now stands, until 1889, when the brick building still occupying the site was erected. In October, 1894, J. R. Clements was alleged to have withdrawn from the firm. August 22, 1898, the doors of the institution were closed, and it was found that there was less than $100 in cash and less than $300 in notes in the bank at that time. The amount of the deposits was large at the time of the failure, and the poor people who had been depositors suffered heavily. It transpired in the litigation which followed that Clements was the evil genius of the affair, and that Todd had turned over to him, for apparently no reason, vast sums of money.

When the bank was organized it was known as the Fillmore County Bank, president, J. R. Clements; vice-president, J. F. Greenleaf; cashier, M. R. Todd. Then it was changed to Fillmore County Bank, Clements, Greenleaf & Todd, bankers. Last it was Fillmore County Bank, Greenleaf & Todd, bankers. It was brought out later that Clements' connection with the bank had continued from beginning to end. Todd was arrested as soon as the bank closed its doors, and Clements was arrested and extradited from Wisconsin, June 16, 1899. Todd died not long after the trouble started. Clements served ten years in the state's prison.

The Kelsey Failure. In the fall of 1896 a promoter of private banks, B. J. Kelsey, claiming his residence in Minneapolis, came to Lanesboro and labored several days for the purpose to establish a stock company in a private bank. He worked and labored strenuously, inducing and cajoling farmers in the vicinity to take interest or shares in his institution, but failed to accomplish his scheme. He used the same methods in Canton and failed also, but subsequently installed a private bank at Lanesboro and Canton. At Lanesboro he occupied the building subsequently used by the Farmers' & Merchants' Bank. The institution was short lived. Apparently his resources were rather limited and from all indications his capital in banking consisted principally of an ability to talk, as subsequent events proved. However, through his machinations he captured a good many depositors. In the fall of 1897 Kelsey's pretentions exploded and the doors of his business places were closed and passed into the receiver's hands, the result of which was total failure, as far as the depositors were concerned.

The National Bank of Preston. Henry R. Wells started the Preston Bank in 1875, and was in the banking business continuously in Preston up to 1911. March 20, 1908, the National Bank of Preston was organized with a capital of $50,000. The officers were: President, Henry R. Wells; vice presidents, S. A. Langum and John W. Hopp; cashier, William R. Wells; assistant cashier, L. J. Luhmann; directors, H. R. Wells, Tollef Sanderson, T. G. Moore, Thomas Frankson, S. A. Langum, John W. Hopp, Dr. W. B. Grinnell. The business of this bank was taken over in 1911, by the Farmers & Merchants Bank of Preston.

Bank Deposits.

The sums deposited in the banks of Fillmore county are as follows:

Scanlan-Habberstad State Bank, $658,324; State Bank of Lanesboro, $100,912; Preston First National Bank, $185,297;

Peterson State Bank, $82,192; First National Bank, Harmony, $281,085; State Bank, Harmony, $396,165; First National Bank, Rushford, $152,998; State Bank, Rushford, $527,728; First State Bank, Chatfield, $345,816; First National Bank, Chatfield, $324,622; First National Bank, Spring Valley, $289,262; First State Bank, Spring Valley, $290,156; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Preston, $225,007; First State Bank, Wykoff, $139,516; Exchange State Bank, Wykoff, $111,328; First State Bank, Fountain, $110,787; State Bank of Mabel, $157,485; First National Bank, Mabel, $313,496; First State Bank, Canton, $117,949; Ostranders State Bank, $68,708; total, $4,878,833.

There are twenty national and state banks in Fillmore county, and their existence depends in a measure to the welfare of the agricultural farmer, of which we have the most thrifty class and practical farmers in the state.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

INCIDENTS AND EVENTS.

Experiences of P. McCracken—The Weisel Flood, Written by William Willford—Hunting and Fishing—List of Old Settlers—Pre-Settlement Incident—Early Days in Amherst—Severe Storms—Reminiscences of W. F. Davis—Reminiscences of William K. Sawyer—Bear Hunt and the Killing, Written by William Willford—Indian Scare—Carimona Tavern—Early Days in Granger—A Vigilance Committee—Reminiscences of Old Pedagogue—"Yale College"—Scotland School—Abstracts of Title.

At a meeting of the old settlers in 1893, P. McCracken painted a word picture of pioneer conditions in Fillmore county in 1855 and 1856, well worthy of preservation in this history. Mr. McCracken said:

I saw the patient, slow-plodding ox team, hitched to what was commonly known as a prairie schooner, a farm wagon covered with thick factory cloth or canvass to protect, perchance, a wife and children from the scorching rays of the summer sun, and the drenching of the rain storm, and to protect the family from the chilly dews of a Minnesota night when used as a bed chamber. I saw the prairie schooner or white tent pitched near some of our beautiful groves, or on some secluded spot on the broad prairie, along some of our laughing little brooks, on the banks of our clear, cool, Root river streams, or by the side of some of our numerous little springs that were dotted all over our prairie, like silver specks in a sea of green. I saw the breaking plow turning up the rich, black prairie soil, while the owner of the claim looked forward with fond anticipation of a rich return for his toil. I saw the hardy, dauntless pioneer fashioning and laying up the prairie sods to make his frontier cabin home. I saw the beautiful deer bounding over the prairie or tamely drinking clear, cool water from a spring or sparkling brook. I saw the beautiful speckled trout in school, laying in the cool, shaded waters of brooks or rivers, or saw them darting through their azure tints like arrows shot from the bow of an unseen Robin Hood, or raising in playful gambol to the surface of the water with the glimmer of a silver sheen. I saw the prairie fire rolling

JOSEPH RICHARDS, SR.

over the prairies in all its terrific grandeur like a vast destroying army or monster tidal wave of fire. I saw a long, irregular wagon tract running over the prairie in an easterly direction, which at that time was our great public highway with its terminus on the west bank of the Mississippi river. I saw along this public highway some of the then noted hotels of Minnesota, viz. seven by nine cabins divided off into sleeping room, dining room and kitchen with quilt partitions. I saw in the winter months near the sod or log cabin the pioneer's meat barrel made of four crotched posts set in the ground and standing about seven feet high, with two cross pieces on top, whereon perhaps lay the carcass of a magnificent buck or doe preserved in the cold of forty degrees below zero. I saw in the sod or log cabin the strong, brave, confident husband, the contented and confiding wife, the artless and sturdy child, or the young man who had come west to grow up with the country and get a farm from Uncle Sam, that he might some day claim as his bride the sensible girl who had promised to become his wife whenever he had a home of his own or the means to purchase one. I saw hospitality, pure and simple. I saw contentment braced and buoyed up with a strong lever of hope. I saw friendship sincere and strong, unadulterated by the envy and petty jealousies of today. I saw the pioneers anxiously waiting and watching for the receipt of a letter or newspaper that had been expected and looked forward to for weeks, the receipt of which was one of the great family events of the week.

The Weisel Flood. A cloud-burst and the worst rain storm known to the settlers living in the southeast part of Fillmore county struck the west part of Newburg township, Canton township, the south part of Amherst township, the east part of Harmony township, and the southeast part of Preston township about eleven o'clock at night on the sixth of August, 1866, doing an immense amount of damage to the settlers in that section of the country. Houses, stables, fences, hay and grain were washed away. Several human lives were lost, and domestic animals and fowls of all kinds were drowned. All varieties of wild animals known to this country, such as woodchucks, rabbits, skunks, chipmunks, and gray, striped and pocket gophers were found dead in the huge piles of driftwood along the streams, some of which were four rods or more wide, ten to twenty rods long, and ten to twenty feet high. In these immense piles of driftwood hundreds of rattlesnakes, both yellow and mud-colored could be seen alive, and coiled ready to strike with their poisoning fangs.

The fences at this period of time were built mostly of posts set in the ground and three or four rails or poles spiked to the posts with sixteen penny cut fence nails. The rainfall was so great that it washed the cut hay from the rolling land, the

valleys and the bottom lands along the spring brooks and creeks, off the fields and lodged it against the fences, thereby damming the water until it was from three to four feet deep. The weight and pressure of such a body of water so great against the fences caused them to give way and a wave of water and accumulated rubbish of three to four feet high passed down stream gathering force from similar bodies of water and breaking other similar obstructions, taking houses, stables, bridges and everything in its course, and swelling Weisel Creek and the south branch of Root river to a height of overflowing that was never known to the inhabitants of that part of Fillmore county before or since that fatal day. The estimated rainfall at this time was from four to six inches. The valleys that furnished the greatest quantity of water were: The valley leading from Albert Nichols' spring on section 25, township 101, range 9; the valley leading from the J. W. Goudy spring on section 26, township 101, range 9; the valley leading from the Godfrey Frego spring on section 27, township 101, range 9; the valley leading from the Godfrey Marotz spring on section 22, township 101, range 9; the valley leading from the J. R. Nelson spring (the source of Weisel creek) on section 21, township 101, range 9; the valley leading from the Joseph Woodle spring on section 8, township 101, range 9; and the valley leading from a spring on section 11, township 101, range 10, which is the source of the south fork of Root river. The rainfall was not so great in township 102, range 8, (Preble township), as it was in township 101, range 9, (Canton township), but the drowning of the people and the greater part of the domestic animals was in Preble township.

The first building of much value on Weisel creek that was removed by this flood from its foundation was situated on section 29, township 102, range 8 (Preble township), about one hundred rods southeast of Hall's Mill. This was a log cabin house on the north side of the road running from the mill east to the settlement on the prairie, and west of the bridge across Weisel creek. This house was erected in the latter part of the fifties by Thomas G. Hall and for a time was used as a residence for himself and family. In the first part of the sixties it was leased to Ole Torgerson who was a shoemaker by trade. Torgerson and his wife and Hans Aastad (unmarried), who was better known as "Wolf Hans," occupied this house on the eventful night. The flood carried it from its foundation a short distance and toppled it over against some oak trees, where it became stranded. Torgerson and his wife climbed up as high in the house as they could to get away from the water and remained there until the morning of the seventh. Hans Aastad cut a hole through the roof of the house and crawled out into a tree top, where he perched himself and

remained there in the rain. Wet and cold, he was relieved from his unpleasant situation about nine o'clock on the morning of the seventh, when some of the neighbors came to the rescue of Ole Torgerson and his wife.

The next building swept away was the grist mill of Collins Hall, which was built in the year 1857 and was situated on the Weisel creek about one hundred rods down the stream from the Torgerson home to the northwest. The writer will give the description of the destruction of the mill as related to him by Collins Hall, the proprietor of this mill. Mr. Hall said that he slept in the mill nights, and at about 11:30 o'clock on the night of August 6, 1866, he was awakened by the roar of the turbulent water, went to the door of the mill and at once saw that his exit from the place was an impossibility. He then hastened upstairs and stood beside the bolting chest. The water in huge waves was rising rapidly, and he expected the mill would soon be dashed to pieces against the trees. The mill left the foundation and floated down the race all intact until it struck a clump of elm trees about twenty rods below where it stood. The building then parting at the top of the roof, and the structure went to pieces. Collins Hall caught hold of the bolting chest and went floating down stream, which was then about twenty rods wide. The rain continued to pour down in torrents, the lightning at this time was terrific and flash after flash lighted up the surrounding hills. Mr. Hall, after floating down stream in a westerly direction for a distance of about forty rods, clinging to the bolting chest, saw when the lightning flashed at its best a glimpse of the hill to the north, which seemed to him not far away. He then relinquished his hold on the bolting chest thinking that the water was shallow enough so that he could wade out to the land. But to his surprise he went down in the water where it was about six feet deep. However, being an expert swimmer, he struck out and swam to the northwest, a distance of eight or ten rods, when he encountered a large clump of white thorn bushes which he caught hold of and found that the water there was about four feet deep. He then waded obliquely with the swift and strong current until he came to terra-firma, wet, tired and completely exhausted. He then, by the aid of the flashes of lightning wended his way through the rain to a cabin house on the hill north of where the mill had stood and remained there until morning. As soon as day dawned he left the cabin and went down the steep hill near where the mill had stood and sat down upon a rock and proceeded to take his "greenbacks" from his pocket-book and spread them upon a rock to dry. He was contentedly reviewing the result of the flood, when he was discovered on the morning of the seventh by his son-in-law (Thomas Tough), who lived in a

house owned by Mr. Hall, on the south side of Weisel creek near the mill. When Tough saw Hall seated on a rock on the side of the hill he called to him and inquired what he was doing up there. Hall answered, "I have just finished taking a bath." Thomas Tough, who at this time was not financially well fixed and who did not realize the seriousness of the situation, on the morning of the seventh discovered that not only the mill was gone, but also his stables, sheds, horses, cattle, poultry, about twenty hogs, and most of his farm tools and machinery.

From Hall's mill the mad waves of this turbulent stream coursed their way northwest a distance of one and a half miles, where they struck the sawmill of Ethan P. Eddy that was substantially built in the year 1858, on the south side of the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 29, township 102, range 8 (Preble township). Here the destruction was complete, as the mill, saw-logs and lumber were swept away and distributed in the huge piles of driftwood on the way down the stream a distance of a mile from where the mill stood.

From the Eddy sawmill the raging torrent wended its way northwest and north a distance of about two miles to the home of David Weisel, a pioneer of 1855. Here the Weisel creek formed a confluence with the south branch of the Root river that was also at a high stage of water, and dealing out destruction of property to the early settlers along that picturesque stream. Below this junction was the cabin home of David Weisel, and a sawmill and a corn cracker that was erected in 1855 and 1856 near the northeast corner of section 19, township 102, range 8 (Preble township). These mills were of the primitive kind. The machinery of the sawmill, with the exception of the saw and a few castings, were made by Weisel's own hands. The millstones used in the corn cracker were cut from a limestone rock found in a hill near by, and chiseled to suit his fancy. These mills plainly showed that "necessity is the mother of invention," and certainly tested the ingenuity of the builder. They were operated successfully by the proprietor until that fatal night of August 6, 1866. There was no more warning than a slight jar of the cabin, which awoke David Weisel from his slumber. He quickly arose from his bed and went to the door of the cabin in his night attire. Just as he opened the door, the house was swept from its foundation and immediately went to pieces. The inmates in this house were David Weisel and his wife, David Weisel's mother, who was past eighty years of age, David Weisel's nephew, named John Weisel, twelve years of age, and Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Brace, of Burr Oak, Ia. The latter two were aged people, and were visiting the Weisel family on that eventful night, they being old acquaintances in the state of New York. All of

the inmates met a watery grave, except Mrs. David Weisel. She was found the next morning on the river bank near a huge pile of driftwood where had lodged the bedstead on which she was sleeping, and to which she had clung while floating down among the logs and driftwood in the mad current of the boisterous stream, a distance of about one half of a mile. When the bed had lodged she at a hazardous risk of her life had relinquished her hold on the bedstead and half drowned began the perilous task of climbing out on the driftwood to the land. This in an exhausted condition, she accomplished, thereby saving her life. Speaking pecuniarily of the David Weisel family, they possessed nothing but their home, the sawmill and the corn cracker, all of which was swept away by the flood and destroyed. Three members out of the household of four were drowned.

Onward sped the seething body of water from the Weisel home in a northeasterly direction a distance of about a mile by the way of the river. Here the destructive element struck the residence of Jonas C. Wellington which was situated on the southwest corner of the east half of the northwest quarter of section 17 township 102 range 8 (Preble township), sweeping it away while the inmates were sleeping. The occupants of this household were Mr. and Mrs. Jonas C. Wellington who were aged people, and Charles C. Gage their grandson four years old, all of whom were drowned.

From the Wellington residence the large onward rushing body of water in its boisterous rapidity coursed its way in a northerly direction a distance of about a mile by the way of the river to the sawmill owned by Nels Johnson, and operated by Jens Soli, and the residence of Jens Soli a short distance below the sawmill, which was situated near the north line of section 17, township 102, range 8 (Preble township). Here the flood swept away the sawmlll, logs and lumber against the residence of Jens Soli and demolished the cabin. The inmates of the Soli household consisted of Jens Soli, Catherine Soli, his wife, and their three children ranging in age from one month to six years old, and a sister of Jens Soli, that was known as Nels Hanson's widow, and her two children ranging in age from eight to twelve years old, all eight of whom were drowned on that eventful night. Their bodies were found on the bottom land bordering on the river, extending the distance of about six miles below the Soli residence. From the Collins Hall mill to the David Weisel mill the Weisel creek was bordered with timber, and in many places the valley was narrow between the hills, and where the valley was narrow the bark was knocked off some of the standing trees by the driftwood to the height of twenty to twenty-five feet above low water mark,

the marks of which were visible for about one quarter of a century after this flood.—By William Willford.

Hunting and Fishing. Game was plenty in the early days and the sportsman who is compelled to trudge all day for the privilege of catching three or four trout or getting an occasional shot at some small game envies Squire Elias Lint as he relates some of his hunting and fishing stories—true stories at that. One winter's day when the mercury registered 20 below he went to what was then called Runnel's Pond, cut a hole in the ice and caught 44 trout as fast as he could pull them out, some measuring 17 inches in length. He threw them on the ice and they froze instantly so hard that they would break like a stick if an attempt was made to bend them. Taking the trout home he put them in a tub of fresh water when a transparent scale of ice formed about the fish and upon this melting they became as lively as when first caught, some actually jumping out of the tub.

Another time he went hunting for deer down on Camp creek, and not finding any fresh tracks he concluded to bring home a string of trout, but he had no bait, although he always carried his fishing tackle, summer and winter. In this dilemma he bethought himself of his red flannel undershirt and cutting off a piece he baited his hook and it had no sooner struck the water when it was eagerly swallowed by a speckled beauty. He caught several more in the same manner and finally took a fin and caught all he could drag home on the snow.

Deer were equally plentiful in those days and Squire Lint was light on foot as well as a crack shot. In the winter of 1855-56 he supplied his neighbors with venison, free of charge. One afternoon, alone, he killed four deer within sight of Preston near where the Glenville cemetery now is, one large buck being struck by a bullet and killed without touching a hair.

List of Old Settlers. A previous history of this county contained a list of prominent citizens who were in the county previous to January 1, 1856. This list is here appended, not as an authentic directory of the pioneers, but merely that the names may be preserved as a partial list of those who helped to lay the way for the present prosperity of the county. The list follows:

Lorenzo Luce, Horace Leach, Joseph Stevens, David B. Freemier, Sylvester Benson, William Jolly, Martin Davis, Thomas Brooks, Forest Henry, William Renshaw, Wm. R. Wattles, James R. Findley, William Barnes, William B. Norman, R. M. Foster, William Weimer, John L. Green, J. P. Kennedy, J. D. Bennett, H. K. Soper, Andrew J. Drake, William Drake, George Burlingham, H. S. H. Hayes, G. P. Steere, Sands Brownell, L. S. Morgan, Simeon Crittenden, Levi Heaton, Charles E. Todd, Osten Peterson, Caleb Onstine, John Simber, John Jones, Edwin Wilson, Robert

S. Warren, Bela K. Ingalls, John H. Varnell, John Bateman, Harrison Pine, Myron Conklin, Osborn Merrill, R. W. Twitchel, S. B. Murrill, Martin Kingsbury, Charles A. Coger, Ephraim Stebbins, Thomas Warner, Jacob Ham, Martin Henderson, S. B. Mussell, Henry A. Billings, James L. Sharp, David Bender, Joseph Weymouth, John Ogg, Thomas J. Smith, Wm. H. Stevens, Edwin Hamilton, John I. Hubbard, Edwin D. Gere, A. T. Hay, Thomas Taylor, Thacher Blake, Hiram H. Wilder, Gulbrand Gulbrandson, Andrew Beauson, Aaron Newell, Levi Bullis, Francis Inghram, Elias C. Koonty, B. F. Tillotson, Sylvanus Allen, Nelson Darling, Elijah Austin, A. P. Darling, George B. Gere, M. Wheeler Sargeant, L. H. Springer, David C. Kennedy, M. G. Thompson, Grove W. Willis, Henry L. Edwards, Horace E. Loomis, F. A. Coffin, John Plumteaux, Charles B. Willford, Henry Goodman, Peter Peterson Boer, Oleson Guilbronson, Arthur Bome, Henry L. Edwards, J. W. Sturgis, George W. Willis, Isaac Day, J. W. Elliot, David Dickerson, Wm. R. Elliot, Henry C. Wheeler, Andrew Cheney, Charles T. Lapham, Charles B. Kimball, Knud Johnson, Lars Tolifson, D. B. Baker, William Bucker, C. French, Charles Wilson, A. W. Fargo, Tulef Helgerson, Samuel F. Dickson, Charles B. Allen, Elijah Austin, Hugh Cox, Edwin Thayer, Harley B. Morse, John W. Sleepier, Wm. K. Tribue, Thomas B. Twiford, B. M. White, M. L. Edwards, James Nicholas, James Goudy, James M. Graham, Wm. Smith, Hans Johnson, Richard D. Bull, E. B. Jones, Harley B. Morse, Charles M. Foote, Charles Wilson, Columbia French, Samuel D. Short, Edwin Pickett, Joseph W. Brackett, G. B. Calder, George Provost, John Kingsbury, Nels Bareson, Thomas Armstrong, John R. Bennett, Andrew Gray, Alfred Clark, Jeremiah Clark, Enoch P. Wickersham, A. Oren, David Wisel, Justus Sutherland, W. H. Vaughan, D. W. Morrill, George McMaster, William Meighen, Benjamin Philbrick, Joseph Bisby, Joseph W. Crees, W. H. Strong, J. M. Jaquish, Harvey C. Marsh, Joel Fisher, John M. West.

A Pre-Settlement Incident. When the first settlers of Rushford arrived, they found, near where the Catholic church now stands, a grave with a rude wooden headboard. From the fact of its being marked in accordance with the habits of civilization, they were led to the presumption, that it must be the grave of a white person, but the mystery of a death at this place could not be penetrated from any known circumstances. Who it might have been thus wandering beyond the confines of civilization, and overtaken by the angel of death excited considerable curiosity. That there was some friend near to place the remains beneath the sod, and mark the spot was certain. Thus the matter remained until some years ago, when two residents of the town, Henry Stage and C. W. Gore, were on a hunting expedition among

the lumbering camps of Wisconsin, when they met a man who, on learning they were from up the Root river, related the following incident: Some time about 1845, this man, whose name is not remembered, came up the Root river to where Rushford now stands, with his brother and another man on a hunting and trapping tour. They made a camp at this place, and were proceeding to make themselves comfortable when the brother was taken violently ill, and as they had little medical knowledge and no medicine, they were in a deplorable condition. The man rapidly grew worse, and after terrible suffering, became delirious, and finally death came to his relief. This was a sad time for this little party, away from home and friends, but they made the best of the situation and buried him silently, hewing out the rude memorial which was afterward found, but the name had been obliterated. This man related their experience with the buffaloes, which at night would remain on the bluffs but in the daytime would be on the bottom lands feeding and quenching their thirst from the river. This place was on the south side of the river, near the farm of O. O. Tuff. The camp was on the north side, and at that time the herd did not cross the river. Of course toward fall the buffaloes would return south, to revisit this section the coming season. Soon after this, the first white death in this region, the camp was broken up and the lonely adventurers sorrowfully wended their way down the river.—From History of Freeborn County, 1882.

Early Days in Amherst. After crossing the Iowa state line, July 26, 1853, we found Albert Nicholas, who guided us past the lonely little cabin of John Kingsbury to the camp and cabin of Uncle Jim Kelley, just south of Lenora. Still further on were Uncle Jake Vought and Charles Kingsbury. At about this time, John Vail had discovered the boiling sand in the sparkling waters that the people of Preston drink today.

The Kelleys led a frontier life, hunting and fishing being their highest ambition. Uncle Henry Onstine bought of James Kelley, Jr., and William McHenry, three claims (what is now the poor farm, the William Maust farm, and the plat of Henrytown) for a consideration of $376.00, designing it for himself and two sons-in-law. A Mr. Woodruff had taken the Henrytown claim early in the spring, built a little cabin near the Henrytown schoolhouse and split a few rails, when a party of Indians came in one day when Mr. Woodruff was away and gave Mrs. Woodruff a great scare. She could not be reconciled to such visitors, and hence James Kelley bought the claim for a cow and an old rifle. Mr. Woodruff then took the claim that Prosper now occupies, but sold it to Mr. Brodie for a horse and a watch. John Livingood, a step-brother of James Kelley, sold the claim known as the

MR. AND MRS. D. W. BACON

Barton farm, to Uncle Michael Onstine. John was also of a shiftless nature, and it was he that dealt the fatal blow in the Telyer murder.

Our mail we got through kind neighbors from Decorah, until the next year, Mr. Onstine was appointed postmaster at Richland. For our farm utensils we went to Lansing, Iowa, and to Pocket City, as McGregor, Iowa, was then called. For our groceries and house supplies we went to Decorah. In the meantime, A. D. Sprague unloaded about $1,000 worth of goods at McPhailsburg, Houston county, where we did our trading for some time.

Our claim shanty being only 12x14, it was my experience, as well as that of many others, to sleep in the covered wagon a part of the winter of 1853-54, while many dug in side hills and made habitations covered with bark or sticks, with hay or earth. —From Newspaper Clipping.

Storms of 1902. The county suffered greatly from storms in 1902. May 17, came a great flood which did about $20,000 damage at Preston, completely flooding the "flat" so called. During the thunder storm which accompanied the rainfall, H. M. Conkey was killed by lightning at Preston. Three children of Herman Willbright living east of Forestville were drowned, while their parents were attempting to drive with them to a place of safety.

Three days later came a great hail storm which did much damage to the crops in various parts of the county, demolished buildings in Fountain and Chatfield, and flooded the tracks in various places between Preston and Mabel.

Cyclone of 1905. A cyclone swept Fountain and Pilot Mount, August 19, 1905, killed one man, Tosten Danielson, and damaged considerable property. It formed a mile west of Fountain village, sweeping through the village, and overturning small buildings. Northeast of the village, near the river, the storm did the most damage, destroying buildings and crops, and uprooting many trees. Carl Danielson was the heaviest sufferer, his house being demolished, and his step-brother Tosten being killed. The storm also did considerable damage in Pilot Mound, demolishing the brick house of Frank Sanders, and destroying the house occupied by Andrew Mennis. Fortunately the course of the storm was mainly along the river, and was broken up somewhat by the rough country. By the time the storm reached Rushford it had moderated to a strong wind.

Reminiscences of W. F. Davis. W. F. Davis, now of Bowdle, S. D., was one of the early pioneers of Jordan, and has taken a deep interest in the history of the early days. His reminiscences, which are here presented, were prepared for this work, and give

an accurate picture of affairs and events in Jordan and Fillmore township as he saw them in those far distant days. Mr. Davis says:

March 4, 1857, I left the south part of Iowa and rode a horse to Fillmore county, Minn. I arrived in Fillmore village, March 17. At the place where I spent the winter in Iowa the ground was bare. In Minnesota the snow was two feet deep. The top of the snow which covered the road was four feet above the ground. It was very difficult for two teams to pass, especially if both were loaded. I learned that there had been much travel on the road to Decorah, bringing in provisions for the settlers. In Fillmore village carpenters were at work building a hotel for Lafayette Phillips. In a few days men were at work on a stone grist mill. I spent the following summer at work for Edwin Pettis, who lived about three miles down Root river from Fillmore. Mrs. Pettis was my sister.

I was told this story: A homesteader, a Polander, living on his claim, a half mile west of Fillmore was shot and killed by a man by the name of Walker, the fall of 1856. Walker drew the body into the woods and left it for wild beasts. A company of citizens put a rope about Walker's neck intending to hang him, but finally yielded to his entreaty for life and let him go.

The crop of 1857 was a failure. That was when we saw hard times. Many a man and boy wore shoes made of grain bags. The crop of 1858 was good, but the price was low. I saw barley sold in Fillmore at twenty cents a bushel. I took wheat for Edwin Pettis, to Winona and sold it for forty cents a bushel, also dressed hogs at $2.00 a hundred. In 1864 I sold wheat in Winona at $2.00 a bushel and fresh pork at $14.00 a hundred.

The township of Jordan was well settled, but strange to say, it had no post office or store, or even a blacksmith shop. Near the east side of the town lived Harper Tyson; he had two sons and three daughters. The daughters are still living, but the sons have passed away. Joseph Tyson took the measles while in the army and died. Edwin, the youngest, was killed. To remove a gun from a wagon box, he took hold of the muzzle and drew it toward him, and the hammer catching on the end gate was discharged, thus ending his life.

The farm of Edwin Pettis lay along Root river, 400 acres in section 34, township of Jordan. Harper Tyson and his brother, Oswald were in section 35, same township, as was also a family by the name of McConville. Henry McConville filed on 160 acres of land in 1856. During the winter of 1857, returning from Chatfield, in the night, he got lost in the blizzard and perished. He left a wife and five children, four at home and one, Kate, the oldest was still in Ireland and married. She and her husband,

Daniel McGowen came to Minnesota in 1859. The children dependent on Mrs. McConville were three boys and a girl—John, Patrick Henry, James and Mary. All have passed over the river but James, who lives at Wykoff. Mr. McGowen, after being in the county a year or two, had quite an adventure. He left his wife with her mother and went west of the river to do some work. He started for home on a Saturday morning in June, intending to cross the river on a foot bridge. He reached the river after sunset, to find the foot bridge gone and the river a raging torrent. Eager to reach home he concluded to swim. So he threw off his clothes and boots, and plunged in. He succeeded in reaching an island half way over the river and was so frightened he did not dare to try the balance of it. He sat in the brush until daylight and then began to yell for help. Perry Loughrey, living a mile down the river heard the cry, rode a big, strong horse, and rescued him.

Cephas Farrington and son, Eugene, had farms joining E. Pettis on the north. They also owned 80 acres of land on section 36.

Joining C. Farrington on the north lived Peter Loughrey. He had five sons and six daughters. All were in Minnesota but one daughter. Hiram Loughrey lives in Chatfield and Perry lives on the old homestead. Further down the river on the east side lived Robert Norton. He had six children. In 1866 or 1867 he moved to Jackson county, Minn. The next family, a mile north of Norton was David Pray. They had three sons and a daughter, Charles, Henry, Francis and Mary. Charles Pray, P. H. McConville and Walter Wright, (a young man living with Edwin Pettis), enlisted in the regular army the fall of 1861. Charles Pray was wounded at the battle of Gettysburg. Henry Pray enlisted early in 1862, and died in a hospital. About fifty rods southeast from David Pray lived Solomon Wells, in 1857. A mile further east lived Kimball Phillips, among stony hills. Half a mile south of Phillips lived Tobias Walker, a son-in-law of Peter Loughrey.

Crossing Root river near Pray's, and going up on the west side, I came to William Carpenter's. They had one child, Emily. A young man, Wilson Garrett, was visiting there with his sister, Mrs. Carpenter. Going on a short distance I came to Mr. Fargo's. They had three children, Frank, Lena and Lucretia. Frank Fargo went into the army, took the typhoid fever and died. About eighty rods farther I came to Nathan Carson's. Their first born, Henry, was a babe in the cradle. Nathan's father lived with him; also his brother William was there much of the time. In the next house up the river lived Lyman Harris, in a double log house. I think it was in 1859 that he sold out to Ansel

Craine. At the head of a ravine running into the bluff, not far from Harris, lived Abel Tillison, a bachelor. He lived his life out alone. Going on up the river a mile I came to three houses, not very far apart. In the first lived Jackson Best and family, in the second Gabril Martin and family. Jackson Best was a son-in-law of Peter Loughrey, and Mrs. Martin was a sister of Mr. Best.

In the third house, near by, lived Daniel Barnes. They had one son, Isaac, who some years later learned the photograph trade, and followed it in Chatfield. Up the river half a mile or more, I came to Widow Newell's. Among the children I saw James and Moses. There was a man about the place, courting the widow, named Richerson. They were married and lived happy ever after. The Newell farm joined Peter Loughrey on the east. Valentine Woodburn made his home with the Newells. He joined the Third Minnesota Infantry and was killed in battle just before the surrender. Going up a long hill to the west, through a forest of oak, to the south of Jordan creek, I came to Perry Odell's. I do not know how many were in the family. I saw one boy, Gibson. About thirty rods west, in a small log house, lived P. Odell's father. A beautiful farming country lay to the west, known as Jordan valley. The next farm belonged to Arthur Palmer, with three sons and two daughters. The sons were Wesley, Galrusha and Harrison.

On the next farm west lived Samuel Wilson. I well remember his son, Henry. Working in a sawmill in those early days, he threw his leg over the log that was being sawed, and allowed the saw to amputate a leg. "That ends my dancing days," he was heard to say.

Southwest from Fillmore, perhaps two miles, at a place known for many years as Thompson's mill, in 1857, lived Mr. Pond and family. I am told that he built the mill. In the same neighborhood lived Lipe Mosher. Northwest from Fillmore, near the river, in 1857, lived Mr. Brinker and family, and half a mile further down Sylvester Carroll, a son-in-law of Peter Loughrey, and a little further down Adam Frinsood.

In Fillmore, among the old timers, I remember Geo. Sheppard, Mr. Huff, who kept a hotel, Mr. Mosher, Mr. Bartlett, Sam Hyde, Beverstock, Hendrickson and Mr. Mantor; a few years later Bill Shepton and Charles Albro. In 1862 gold and silver money disappeared. Sam Hyde and other merchants issued their own paper money.

East of Fillmore, up a long hill, lived a settler on the right; I forget his name. On the left hand lived Mike Gary, a farmer and blacksmith. He had a large family; mostly girls. Further east lived, and still lives, Earl Kellog. His near neighbor on the

right, (if I am right), was Robert Crowell, and further east Mr. Hall. Turning the corner at Hall's, I came to Jacob Hostetter's, on the north side of the road. These people lived in Fillmore township.

Samuel Wilson tried to winter a herd of cattle on straw and they died, and he was so disgusted with Minnesota as a stock country, that he sold out and moved to Oregon.

The next farm, on the left, going west, belonged to Mr. Tabor. "A fine old English gentleman, a boy of the olden time." How many composed the family I don't know. I knew three of the sons, Charles, James and Henry. Mr. Tabor built a large barn in which the Methodists held service. There were many families in and around the valley I never chanced to meet. I knew Mr. Robins and four sons, Mark, Fred, Cal and Herb. Mr. Robins had a son-in-law, McKinney. Mr. Robins owned a large farm at the head of Jordan creek. John Moore lived in the same neighborhood; also two brothers, Elick and Richard Buckingham.

At Arthur Palmer's,a road branched off and went to Fillmore village. In the first house on the Fillmore road, lived Daniel McCollum. There were several girls in the family, and a boy, John. One daughter married Charles Tabor. Neighbor to McCollum lived Wm. Clark with five sons. Three of the boys were Perry, Charles and Harvey. Under the hill between Mr. Clark and Fillmore, lived Simon Hartman in 1861. He discharged a gun that had been loaded some time, and it burst, shattering a hand. He died from blood poisoning.

I should have said that a half mile west of Earl Kellog's, on the east side of the road lived, in 1857, John Stewart. His children were grown up, and two of his sons, John and James, enlisted in the army. James lost his life in the army. John and George, and a sister, Mrs. Durfy, are still with us.

Going on north from Mr. Hostetter's, I came to Albert Odette's place; a fine natural grove, west of the road sheltered his house. Half a mile west lived his father-in-law, Marquette, a Frenchman. He had two sons and several daughters. One son, about ten or 12 years of age at that time, was mentally afflicted. The old man and Joe, his son, were famous as breakers of prairie. They broke with six yoke of oxen and a plow that cut twenty-eight inches.

The next family west of Odette on the north side of the road was William Baily. He lived fourteen years in his claim shanty. It was 14 by 16, had a shed roof, one door and two windows. Mr. Bailey was a hard worker. The next farm on the west side of the road belonged to the writer. It was the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 36 in Jordan. I bought the land from the state in 1862 for $5 an acre. There were other

settlers on the same section. One of them was Gideon Pettis, also Mr. Benson.

In the early days all country houses near timber were built of logs. All the settlers were pioneers struggling to get along in a new country and all were on terms of social equality. When a person who came from a place where the social lines were sharply drawn showed any inclination toward making a distinction between classes of people, he usually soon repented of it. In 1860 P. H. McConville, the widow's son, went down to play with Henry Pray, but the latter's mother, still retaining some of the belief in social superiority brought from an older locality, found the two youngsters wrestling with each other and reprimanded her son for his intimacy with the other lad. At the battle of Gettysburg Charles Pray was wounded and P. H. McConville took Charles on his back and carried him to the rear. When the war was over and the boys returned, Mrs. Pray sent for McConville and he was feasted and flattered to his heart's content.

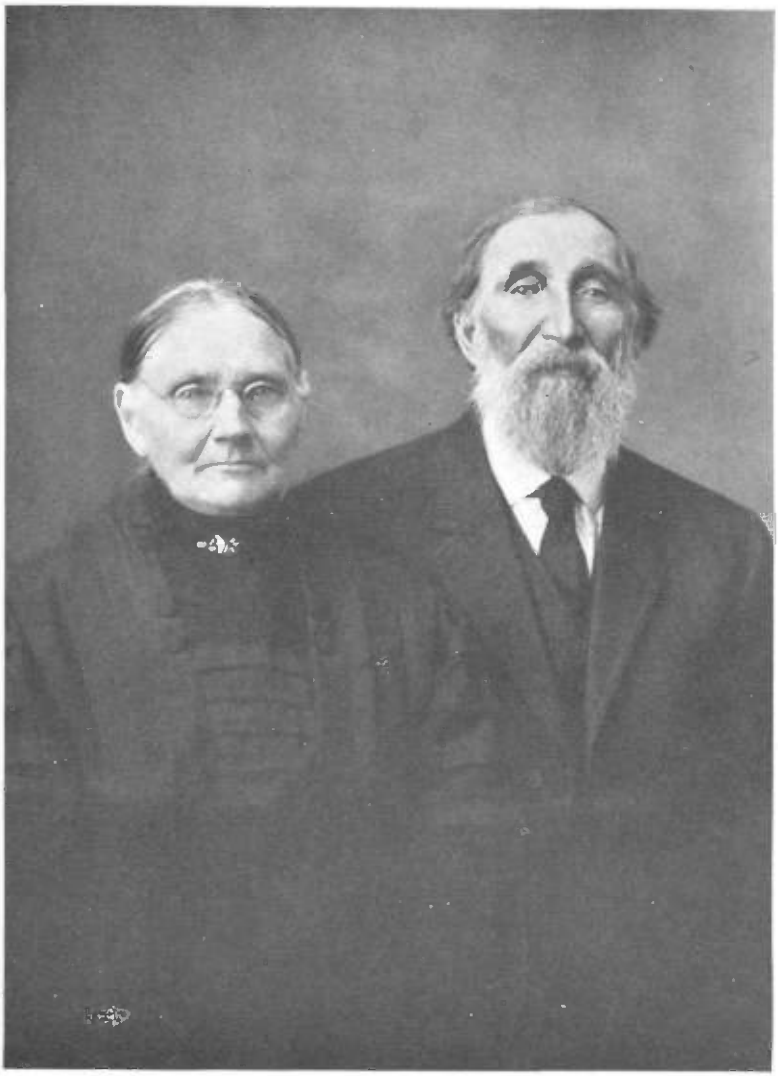
A schoolhouse was built within a stone's cast of Peter Loughrey's house. Stephen A. Jones (the father of John and Richard) came over every two weeks and held preaching service. A Sunday school was in session through the summer months.

From 1857 to 1862 the young people of the valley spent many happy evenings in that schoolhouse. They had a literary society, with essays and debates. Also spelling school. The Civil War broke up the literary society, but not the day school or the church service.

Women's fashions have changed somewhat in fifty years. Not so much in men's wear, although I think more boots were worn then than now. If a lady should go to church now wearing a hoop skirt and a Shaker bonnet it would cause much merriment.

In 1865 C. Harrington had thirty-eight acres of wheat on section 36 in my town. In August I was home from the army on a furlough. I helped Mr. Harrington harvest his wheat. He cut it with McCormick's old reliable. As the reader no doubt knows, it was a self rake. At the first round a man counted the gavels and divided them into five parts and five binders kept up with the machine. From the thirty-eight acres he threshed 3,000 bushels of wheat. A stork flew over my house one day and left us a babe, in the old-fashioned way, and then I went back to my regiment in Tennessee, but came home in October.

I have been asked about fishing in the early days. The fish caught in Root river with a hook were small. Larger ones—red horse and suckers—were speared. Two men with spears and one with a torch of birch bark would wade the shallow water in the night and spear the fish. I was out one evening with a



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party of three—Jackson Best, Hiram Loughrey and Ansel Craine. Mr. Craine carried the light. My duty was to carry the fish as they were thrown on the bank. Mr. Craine couldn't talk without stuttering. When the spear men lagged behind he called out, "Come on, b-b-boys; they're he-he-he-heelin' it up stream."

Mr. Marquette told me that in 1838 he joined an army and crossed the lake at Buffalo into Canada to take it from the British. He said they fought but got whipped, and that he found himself, with others, in prison, and his punishment would have been severe only for the intercession of a Catholic priest. "What did you expect to do," I said, "take Quebec?" "Yes," he said, "when reinforcements came." "Well," I said, "the Spartans were nowhere compared to that little army for bravery." Marquette's neighbors wouldn't believe his story, but I do, for it agrees with history. I know of but two persons, early pioneers of Jordan, who are now living—Edwin Pettis and your humble servant.

Reminiscences of William K. Sawyer. William K. Sawyer, now one of the prominent citizens of Three Oaks, Mich., came to Fillmore county in 1856, and still retains a clear memory of the incidents of those early days. Mr. Sawyer writes:

In 1856 I came to Minnesota from Ohio, to which state I had been taken by my parents from my native state of New York when four years of age. My purpose in coming to Minnesota was to locate a land warrant secured for the services of my father, Phineas Sawyer, in the war of 1812. His company, which was mounted, was called from Vermont to Boston, where, after serving for about three months, it was disbanded. I arrived in Fillmore county in 1856 and located on a piece of land about one and a half miles down the river from Preston. Among my neighbors was John Hurlbut. He married one of the Reams girls. Duncan Little also lived in the neighborhood, having built a two story log house. He was a man of some dignity, and a good farmer. His daughter, Kate, lived with him. B. F. Tillotson was also a neighbor. Mrs. Tillotson had two sons by a former marriage. These boys were kidnapped by a party of people from Ohio, but before they had reached McGregor, Iowa, they were overtaken by a pursuing party of Preston men headed by Mr. Tillotson, and the boys were brought back to their mother. Henry C. Wheeler and his wife, whose maiden name was Lizzie Preston, lived on a place adjoining my claim for a while. Henry was sheriff about that time. Oscar Kennedy was another neighbor. He married a girl living near Big Spring. He afterward moved to Missouri, then to Battle Creek, Mich., where he died, leaving a widow and several children. Oscar Kennedy and I kept "old batch" together one winter. One Sunday morning

he put on his best clothes and in answer to my question he said, "I am going to see my girl and to learn whether I am going to keep batch much longer." A few days later I asked him how much longer he was going to keep batch. He said that the time was indefinite. However, he afterwards married the girl.

When I first arrived in Fillmore county, while looking about for land, I stayed over night with William Kennedy, father of Oscar Kennedy. I found him to be my uncle. He died in the vicinity of Preston many years ago. Aaron Knight was my neighbor also. He died in Preston not long ago. Not far away was Mortimer Thompson, who, with his mother, was on a homestead. Then came a brother-in-law, Mr. Brierly, with his wife and two daughters. On the river lands was Mr. Talbott. He was a great deer hunter and pursued the denizens of the forest with a gun, a gray hound and a white bull dog. Next came the Austin family, a father and two sons, Henry and William. The father and Henry, I think, went farther west. William married one of the Brierly daughters. I once wrote them from Hallsdale, Mich. The wife answered that William was dead and that she was living with her children. Another neighbor was Mr. Eddy, a good farmer, with a wife and several children. Next came Mr. Rodgers and wife. Mr. Rodgers, who was a car builder from Fitchburg, Mass., later returned to that state. Nearby lived the Newcomb family, father and mother, George, Everett and Abigail. Another daughter married George Babcock, who lived near Carimona. I built the farm house for Eddy and Newcomb.

One winter I spent at Carimona at the Strong hotel. I built some black walnut counters for William H. Strong, and also built an addition to his barn. William H. Strong was the leading man in the village. His brother, Belden, was deputy sheriff. Two other prominent men in the village were the elder Dr. Pickett and the younger Dr. Pickett. The elder was sheriff. Lawyer Butler had an office there. He was termed "Due diligence" for the reason that when in court he frequently chided the opposing party with not having used due diligence in the case to secure the attendance of their witnesses. Henry R. Wells was then studying law with Butler. Early settlers remember that Mr. Wells came here quite neatly dressed except that the toes of his stockings were protruding from his shoes. There was a flour mill then at Carimona, also a saloon.

When I arrived in Preston I first did some work for Luther Preston on the Kaercher mill. There were then working for Mr. Preston David Kerr, W. W. Fife and Stephen Carpenter. They afterward worked on the courthouse when I superintended the work. Another who worked on the courthouse was William Swazy Seely, whose daughter, Sarah A., I married, thus blessing

my home for the past fifty years and more. Her sister married W. W. Fife and both are now dead. Mr. and Mrs. Seely both died in Preston. There now remain of this family Belle, Charles and Henry, now in Preston. I cannot now recall many who worked on the courthouse. Stephen Carpenter was one. I learn that he is in California. His wife, who as a girl was Madeline Webb, died many years ago. The first two associates with me in business were Jonas and Myres Conkey. Harvey Egbert had a store then in Preston. T. J. Eames was another merchant; later D. B. Coleman. Col. N. P. Colburn was a prominent man, prosecuting attorney and orator of the county. Reuben Wells was the grand old man of the town. S. B. Murrell was another prominent man.

At one time the bulkhead in Kaercher's mill race moved down stream. People were camped out on the flat for several days waiting for the mill to start. Some came from as far as forty miles away. I built a house for Mr. Crees, an English physician. It was a two-story building across the street from courthouse square. He used this as his store and residence. Mrs. Crees was always neatly attired and wore bloomer dresses. Gust Shambaurr had a billiard place and Ibach a saloon. Tom Hall, who then had a saloon on the corner, had first located on a claim down the river from Preston. I boarded at the Stanwix Hotel. The proprietor, Theabald Schweitzer, would often say: "The longer I keep a hotel the more I learn, by chemony cripes out." His brother was wounded in the foot at the battle of Bull Run. Amos Day was a farmer west of Preston. The Reed family was there when I was there.

I remember that at one time the United States district court was held in Preston. The judge and attorneys came from St. Paul. At that time the law was in force prohibiting the taking of trout from any of the streams. Nevertheless the lawyers were hungry for trout and three men went after a trout on the sly and the lawyers had a trout banquet. One of the men who caught the trout was named Hull, and it appears that this same Hull was the man who had introduced the trout bill in the state legislature. He was fined $25, which with the costs was paid by the St. Paul crowd.

Bear Hunt and the Killing. In the primitive days in the southeastern portion of the territory of Minnesota game birds, such as pheasant, grouse and prairie chicken were very numerous, as were also game animals, such as bear, elk and deer, the latter predominating. In the fall of 1854 Fillmore county, that was created from a portion of the territory of Minnesota March 5, 1853, had in town 101, range 9 (now Canton township) about twenty-four bonafide settlers who were somewhat isolated, many

of whom were hunters and depended on their unerring rifle to furnish the meats for their families from the game that abounded in the then new country. At this period of time many of the game animals had sought new forage grounds, especially the elk, but there was occasionally a bear seen, and deer were very plentiful. The settlers did not possess many domestic animals, but nearly every settler owned a pair of oxen, from one to three cows, a few hogs and some chickens. Elijah Austin, who was a settler of 1853, possessed more domestic animals (especially hogs) than any other one of the twenty-four settlers in the town. There were no fences at this time and all domestic livestock was allowed to roam over the country at will. Mr. Austin resided on the north side of Weisel creek on section 11, town 101, range 9, and permitted his herd of swine to wander at large. They chose the timber covered portion of Weisel creek valley to the south and west subsisting on the mast that was abundant, and the tubers of the wild artichoke that were very plentiful in the valleys. The hogs soon wended their way to a valley leading from the south to Weisel creek which crossed the southwest part of section 23, a distance from their home of nearly three miles, and from the habitation of a settler of more than a mile.

This valley being remote from a settler and the land covered with a dense growth of brush was visited at intervals by a black bear who soon began making raids on Austin's herd of swine. John Willford, a settler of 1853, who spent a great portion of his time hunting, on one of his excursions found the partly devoured bodies of two dead hogs in the locality that Austin's hogs frequented, apparently the work of a bear. The hunter visited the same locality on the following day to ascertain if the bear had returned for another meal during the night. To his surprise he found that another hog had been killed on that morning by the bear, who, after breakfasting on the dead porker, had left. The hunter resolved to capture the bear the following night, thinking if he failed then, he surely could succeed on the second night. Accordingly he made his plan, which was to lay in ambush and watch for bruin's appearance during the night time of the bright moonlight. The hunter secured his nephew, J. L. Willford, to accompany him, and the twain lay in ambush the first night without success. On the second night the watchmen were reasonably sure of better success, expecting that bruin would return for a square meal again. Each man climbed up a tree near where the dead porker lay and after each had established himself on a stout limb sat waiting and watching for their expected guest to put in an appearance. Bruin's wisdom was equal to the emergency and rewarded them by his absence, so after an experience

of a good November night's airing of Minnesota ozone the hunters arrived home in time for breakfast.

After this unsuccessful attempt by John Willford and his nephew, J. L. Willford, to slaughter the bear, the writer in company with his uncle, John Willford, believing, that by eliminating the "moonlight tactics" and substituting something that would be more exciting, like a genuine Daniel Boone hunt in the daytime, the bear could be successfully captured. On the appointed time we left home at three o'clock in the morning taking with us our dogs "Bounce" and "Lion," the writer carrying the old historic Pennsylvania rifle that had been in use by his ancestors for more than half a century, and Uncle John carrying another historic gun of like make, but of much larger caliber. We soon arrived at the locality that was frequented by bruin. As soon as we arrived we saw that the bear had taken his meal and left his foot prints in the frost that covered the ground, and the chase was at once begun. After meandering a short distance through brush and woods, "Bounce" and "Lion" dropped their tails between their legs and, pointing their hair toward their ears, fell back to the rear of the hunters and began a growling noise. With cocked guns and following the foot prints of the bear's feet that were visible in the frost, we led the procession for more than a mile and then prevailed on the dogs to act as advance guard. They at once took up the trail and followed it in a zigzag course, passing to the north of the old historic town of Greenfield and then making a semi-circle, leading off in a northeasterly direction following the trail remarkably well until we arrived at a water hole, which was a hole or depression in the ground the shape of a washbasin and about four rods in diameter, filled with clear water, situated on section 18, town 101, range 9, now Canton township. Here from all appearances the bear quenched his thirst, as the foot prints of its fore feet were plainly visible in the mud at the outer edge of the water basin, where the water was roily. At this point we estimated the distance from the starting point that we had then traveled at about fifteen miles. By this time the sun had nearly reached the western horizon, but the dogs were soon on the trail again leading in a zigzag course over section 17, town 101, range 9, until we arrived in a ravine about sixty rods of the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 17, where the two dogs routed up two monstrous large deer and gave them chase for about an hour's time. Upon their return to the ravine, darkness had settled around us. The dogs at this time seemed to be tired and footsore from the day's traveling over the stubs of the burnt grass, and refused to further follow the trail of the bear. We reconnoitered on both sides of the ravine, hoping that the dogs

would find and take up the trail again, but were unsuccessful in our attempt. We were at this time more than five miles from home, and having had nothing to eat since three o'clock in the morning, we were tired and nearly famished from hunger, so reluctantly gave up the chase and wended our way homeward, to partake of a bountiful supper of johnny cake and venison that was prepared and held in waiting for us by Uncle John's good wife.

A few days later, which was about December 1, 1854, a light fall of snow came, covering the ground, after which a settler named W. J. Howell, who resided on section 10, town 101, range 9, now Canton township, while passing across section 9, town 101, range 9, saw a bear's tracks in the snow and followed them to a sink hole made by the crevice in the rocks at the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 17, which was about sixty rods southeast of the ravine where our dogs scared up the two deer a few days previous. Mr. Howell, who was greatly elated over his "find" of the den of a bear, hastened home and informed Silas Pennock, another settler, who resided with Mr. Howell, what he had discovered and signified his intention to take his trusty rifle and go down in the sink hole and dispatch bruin. He asked Mr. Pennock to accompany him, which he did. On returning to the sink hole it was discovered the bear had not departed. Mr. Howell, after tying the end of a small rope around his body under his arms, in order that Mr. Pennock could assist him in his hurried exit after firing on the bear by pulling on the other end of the rope, took his unerring rifle and a lighted tallow candle and proceeded to enter the sink hole. After a short interval of time the report of the rifle was heard, and Mr. Pennock began at once to pull on the rope which he held, as he was dictated to by the daring man in the sink hole, who soon was on top of the earth again. As soon as Mr. Howell came out of the sink hole the smoke of the burnt powder began to issue from the mouth of the sink hole, and it took fully ten minutes before the entrance was free from smoke. After the smoke had cleared away Mr. Howell took his gun and the tallow candle and again made a second descent in the sink hole and fired the second leaden missile into bruin's body, though this was not necessary as the first shot was a fatal one. This act on the part of Mr. Howell was certainly a very hazardous one as verified by the writer, who had made a personal inspection of the sink hole from top to bottom. At the top was a depression in the ground of about six feet to the mouth of the sink hole which was from two and one-half to three feet in diameter. Below the mouth the hole was perpendicular about eight feet, walled by natural rocks. Then came a horizontal

arched passageway of about five feet in height, walled by stone, that led north of an east direction about six feet. Then another perpendicular hole the shape of the capital letter "A" that was also walled by nature's stone formation of the depth of six feet. At the bottom of this was bruin's winter quarters, about twenty feet below the level of the land.

After Mr. Howell became sure that the bear was dead he and Mr. Pennock began to devise some way to get the 500 to 600 pound bear out of the sink hole where he lay. They called on Jacob Vought, a settler of 1853, and Earl S. Emmons, a settler of 1854, to assist them in planning and doing the work of hoisting the bear out. They at once proceeded to erect a windlass, but when they commenced to operate the windlass they found that it was impossible to draw him out from where he lay by this method, owing to the two underground right angles. However, they kept at work with the windlass for an entire day, but were unsuccessful.

The second day the four men, by taking their turn at the work, proceeded, by the aid of the candle that furnished the light, to skin the bear and cut him into pieces where he laid at the bottom of the sink hole. These pieces they carried through the underground passageway to the outside surface of the land.

This was the only bear known to the writer to have been killed in the south half of Fillmore county during his fifty-eight years of continuous residence in that part of the county.

Mr. Howell tanned the bearskin and used it for a robe and valued it very highly as a keepsake, because he had taken such a hazardous risk of his life in killing the bear twenty feet under the ground. In the "sixties" he loaned the bearskin robe to a careless man who made a trip to Brownsville Minnesota in the winter time and lost it.—By William Willford.

Indian Scare. On the night of August 31, 1862, occurred the Indian scare in Fillmore county. The massacre of the settlers at New Ulm, Minn., and other frontier towns in that locality was made known by couriers sent out to all points of the compass to warn the people of the impending danger. These couriers being in an excited mood lost no time in warning the people by yelling in a stentorian manner, "The Indians are coming! Chatfield is in ashes, and the Indians are marching across the country killing the people and burning the houses. Get your families out of the country to a place of safety as soon as possible." Such news imparted to the settlers as if by magic paralyzed their better judgment, and the people roused hurriedly from their slumber; and horrified with the report that the Sioux Indians had invaded Fillmore county and were marching across the country massacring the settlers and burning the buildings, began a general and

rapid flight. Each conveyed the tidings to his neighbor, who joined the multitude, and away they went in search of a place of safety. Some were on horseback, many in wagons, and some on foot, presenting all those grotesque appearances that frontier settlers naturally would supposing the Indians close in their rear. Many anecdotes are told, amusing to many of us who cannot realize their feelings, that exhibit the varied hues of courage and trepidation characterizing different persons, and also show that there is no difference between real and supposed danger, although yet those actuated by the latter seldom receive the sympathy of their fellows. A man named R———s, when apprised of the reported Indian raid, and anxious to perform a neighborly act, ran a quarter of a mile to the residence of his brother-in-law, S———h, who had been previously notified by another neighbor and had extinguished the light in the house. When R———s arrived he hastily opened the door and entered, the head of the family believing him to be an Indian, caught him by the coat collar and giving him a whirl pushed him outside of the door and while in the act of going prodded him on the broadest part of his anatomy with a number ten cowhide boot.

Another farmer, who had from sixty to eighty hogs in a feed yard when he and his family were all ready to leave the homestead, made an opening in the fence enclosing the feed yard, and also in the fence enclosing his cornfield, then taking as they supposed the last view of their home, departed for a place of safety. Upon the whole, this scare did not materially injure the country, but quite an amount of produce was lost from the intrusion of cattle and other domestic animals to the gardens of those people who were slow in returning to their homes.—By William Willford.

Carimona Tavern. L. A. King, in 1910, presented to the Minnesota State Historical Society a copy of the old register used by the Carimona Tavern. At the time of making the gift, Mr. King wrote the following letter to F. E. Titus:

Carimona, so tradition says, derived its name from the Indian chief, Carimona. In any event, the early ones to reach the region now comprised within the limits of Carimona township, found a lovely stretch of undulating prairie, slightly wooded along the Root river. Near the southeast corner was a heavily timbered section known as Buffalo Grove. On section sixteen there was also a heavy growth of timber. In this sylvan retreat, where the purling brook comes to join its babbling mother, Old River Root, Daniel Pickett selected a home, where a delightful boiling spring gushed out of a high bank, and in whose cool depths many a string of speckled beauties have been caught in boyish triumph. Mr. Pickett came in 1853, but his sons, Joseph and Edwin, came into this region in 1852, Joseph Pickett claiming what is now the

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES GRALING

Evergreen Farm, owned by William J. Meighen. These brothers, with W. H. Strong, James Gilbert, David, Holton, Hiram Johnson and others, started the village, and in 1855 H. C. Butler started the "Carimona Pioneer," edited by Ezra W. Trask. In 1855 W. H. Strong built the Carimona House, but the exact date when the tavern was opened is not known. But the first date shown in the tavern register is December 15, 1855. The first name is H. C. Butler, Carimona. Others were: Orrin Thurber, Chatfield; J. M. Laclow, St. Paul; Alexander Holton, W. H. Strong, David Holton, William Holton, Carimona; Winnebago Jack, also known as Whisky Jack, is also on the page.

December 15, 1855, appear the names of I. N. Cummins, W. T. Wilkins, Spring Valley; H. L. Taylor, Chatfield; James Jackson, Elliota, I. Marshall, Richland Prairie. December 23, 1855, appear the names of S. B. Ervine, Decorah, Iowa; Ezra R. Trask, Carimona; A. D. Knight, Preston; J. B. Thayer, Spring Valley; W. J. Howell, Richland Prairie; A. P. Day, George L. Day, J. B. Onstine, Abe. Kolder, George Kolder, W. C. Pickett, John Healey, Sam Gilbert, S. B. Murrell and in fact practically all the prominent men of the country were registered in the hotel about this time. December 27, 1855, appear the names of Clark W. Thompson, Hokah; M. T. Thompson, Brownsville; W. F. Dunbar, Caledonia.

During the first part of January, 1856, J. C. Burbank, H. C. Burbank and W. H. Morse, all of the Northwestern Express, were guests at the tavern. January 6, 1856, Judge George M. Gere was a guest. January 23, 1856, were registered Daniel D. Merrill, of Boston, Mass., afterward head of the D. D. Merrill Company, printers and publishers of St. Paul; Enos F. Gray, Richland Prairie; C. A. Hitchcock, Elliota; John Leuark, Chatfield. February 28, 1856, came Captain Sully, U. S. A., "the man who built Ft. Sully"; Captain Todd, of St. Paul, from whom Todd county was named; Milo White, Chatfield.

From March, 1855, to April, 1856, the county seat was at Carimona. On Friday, March 14, 1856, while the county seat contest was on, there appear on the register the names of Columbus French, J. V. Robinson, R. L. Nichols, J. W. Sleepier, Isaac Day, William B. Gere, Henry L. Edwards, Chatfield; A. J. Tillotson, Preston; Timothy M. Chapman, Spring Valley; L. L. Brigham, Elliota. A day or two later, on the next page, was registered the now long forgotten name of Joe W. Brockett, and someone has written after his name, "gone lectioneering." History says that the election held April 7, 1856, to decide the county seat contest between Forestville, Preston and Carimona was decided in favor of Preston, and the "lectioneering" of Joe Brockett was useless.

March 18, 1856, a guest was J. F. Marsh, of Elliota, later captain in Company E, Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and

still later colonel of the Ninth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. April 23 appear the names of C. A. Gilmon, Sauk Center, and Isaac S. Cole and S. Cole, of Chatfield. April 8, 1856, appear the names of H. S. H. Hayes, Elkhorn Prairie; Hans Valder, Newburg; Leon Le Fevre, Forestville; John Kaercher, Preston; John R. Jones, Chatfield; W. B. Gere, John Luark, Isaac Day and H. Goodrich. April 20, 1856, a guest was Thomas McAllister, of Elliota. April 24, 1856, David Oldstead, of Winona, was registered. May 5, 1856, E. T. Nelson, North Adams, Mass., arrived. He lived in Carimona a while, afterward became a well-known farmer near Preston, and subsequently moved to California. May 16, 1856, came Edward Burnham from Conway, Mass., a well-known pioneer who lived in Bristol township for many years. June 4, 1856, came William L. Easton, of Lowville, Lewis county, New York, a relative of J. C. Easton, of Chatfield.

June 30, 1856, appears the name of William Pitt Murray, who afterward became a prominent citizen of St. Paul. He and David Olmsted owned an addition to the town called Olmsted & Munger's addition. On the same day appear the names of H. R. Wells, Reuben Wells and A. W. Gray.

Frequently through the book are the names of John T. Drummond, Almon Rice, H. W. Titus, Thomas Clifford, Edwin Pickett, and others, and at a later date, near the close, we find the names of Almon King, H. C. Cooper, a merchant who stopped here several times, G. B. O. Bassett, John Palmer, Michael Mulroy, Joseph B. Taylor, George W. Tate, I. W. Lucas, editor of the "Transcript," and many others.

About this book one can find many clustering stories, and to dig them out and con them over shows the many grim tragedies of pioneer life, as well as the humorous and brighter side.

There was a very elaborate Fourth of July celebration planned in the old tavern in 1856, and the celebration was the talk of the county for many years. Samuel Hull, a territorial representative in the legislature, was the grand marshal.

Early Days in Granger. William B. Hutchison, an early settler, has contributed the following in regard to the early history of Granger:

In the summer of 1857 B. Granger and C. H. Lewis came to the present site of Granger in the interest of Burgess & Greenleaf, a Boston firm, and purchased the whole of section thirty-four, Bristol township, the original pre-emptors of the section being Jason Damon, Jr., William A. Nelson, Leonard Helsaple, James Springsteel, and the two above named gentlemen, Charles H. Lewis and Brownell Granger. After fixing upon their location Granger and Lewis returned to Boston. They returned in the spring of 1858, erected a building and put in a store. At

the same time they erected the first dwelling. Granger had brought his wife with him, Lewis was a bachelor. At this time Daniel Crowell was postmaster at an office known as the Uxbridge postoffice. It was located two and a half miles west of Granger, and supplied the surrounding district. In 1858 it was discontinued into Granger. At about this time section thirty-four was laid into town lots. Granger and Lewis put up the walls of a mill during 1859 and 1860. Before it was completed they left, and their place was filled by T. B. Starett, who put in the machinery and started the mill in operation. The mill was fifty feet square and had four run of stone. Starett soon left, and the property was sold to William H. Wayman, who converted it into a distilling, rectifying and vinegar plant, and started into the manufacture of high wines. After two or three months the government officials confiscated the goods and demolished the building. A brewery was then built by Henry Hassey. His son, Reinhardt, operated it a number of years, but later killed himself. A. G. Serfling, another relative, then took hold and conducted it until he too got into trouble with the government. Then the Elridge Creamery Company rented the building as a creamery. Later it was vacated. The first school was built in 1856. It was a log house on property of William Nelson, near the state line. It was used until about 1863 or 1864 and then a school was established in the "Red Tavern," just over the section line, in section thirty-three, on property of James Springsteel. It was used perhaps four years, when it was torn down and a school erected at Granger. The building, which was forty feet square and two stories high, is still used for the Granger graded schools. The "Red Tavern" was erected in the late fifties by Edward Slawson. It had a store and postoffice in connection. During the Civil War, Slawson started out for Pike's Peak to hunt gold. He was never afterward heard of. His brother, Henry, took charge of the property and managed it a number of years. Granger is practically the same sized village as it was during the war. James Springsteel was at one time a merchant there, and after the war Slawson & Halstad put in a store.

A Vigilance Committee. In the early history of the county the pioneers suffered severely from the depredations of thieves. This was tolerated from 1856, when it commenced, up to 1858, when the ordinary and traditional forms of law having utterly failed to protect the people, it was determined to reassert the right of self-government by organizing for mutual protection and practically setting aside the authorities to whom had been delegated the duty of conserving the public welfare. The necessity of prompt action becoming imperative, a few determined persons met in Hamilton at the residence of W. W. Beers and pro-

ceded to organize by the adoption of rules and solemn pledges to act under the laws if possible, but at all events to rid the community of the thieves and robbers. There was some hesitation in view of the seriousness of the undertaking, but Dr. William H. Dean took the pen and affixed his signature to the articles of agreement, and he was followed by W. W. Beers, Chas. D. Sherwood, C. Davis and H. J. Beers. Once started the membership rapidly increased, spreading all over the county. The gang upon which the war of extermination was to be waged was equally well organized, with ramifications extending into other counties and into Iowa. Ostensibly honest farmers were connected with the stealing operations, and afforded facilities for concealing stolen property and protecting the thieves, and even to retaliate upon those who sought to recover property or to punish the plunderers. The gang had been stealing from William Canfield and he filed complaints against the perpetrators, but one morning he was called out by some of the ruffians and shamefully beaten and maltreated. The committee took up the matter and the men were arrested and cautiously fined a small amount. The assurance of this gang became intolerable, a farmer going into town and leaving his horse hitched in front of a store was not certain of finding him on coming out, and pursuit would carry the party into Iowa to be lost as to further traces of the property or criminals. There were some exciting adventures participated in by these vigilants. On one occasion Mr. Beers rode down into Iowa on a reconnoisance and took dinner at a house which was evidently a rendezvous of the gang, and discovered a saddle and a wagon that had been stolen from his neighborhood. He returned by a circuitous route, and the next night twenty-five armed men went down there, surrounded the house, and succeeded in capturing two of the desperadoes, Wells and Hartwell, and another by the name of Spike escaped. He was wanted in a murder case. After a severe contest Hartwell was sent to state prison, but Wells was discharged. About this time the committee received information that one of the outlaws was in the house of a certain justice of the peace in the town of Jordan, and the place was promptly raided, and the criminal found in bed. He was promptly taken into the woods, confessed what he knew, and was released. Wells was again taken in Iowa and brought up to Pleasant Grove. Thomas Lake, who was afterwards treasurer of Mower county, fatted a calf, and invited his friends to a veal dinner, but the night before it was to have been slaughtered it was stolen, it is not unlikely, by one of his expected guests. It was not safe to leave cattle out at night, but by vigorous measures, like those related, the country was finally rid of this species of organized stealing.

Reminiscences of "Old Pedagogue." Thomas Duxbury came to Fillmore county in 1866 at the age of eight years, and as he grew to manhood became a prominent factor in the life of Preston township. For many years he has contributed to the press under the name of "Old Pedagogue," and his articles are always read with the deepest interest. He has the following to say in regard to the early days in Preston township:

Schools were early established in all parts of Preston township, for no sooner had these hardy, progressive pioneers provided rude shelter for themselves than they immediately began building school houses and organizing schools in which to educate their children. The first of these schools to be established was at Preston, Scotland and Partridge Creek, districts 45, 46 and 47, respectively, all established near the same time, 1858 or 1859. Other schools of later date but still of early days were the Stone School in the southwest part of the town, Livingood School (now High Grove), toward the northeast part, and the Perkins' School, on Camp creek (later moved west to Windy ridge). These schools naturally formed the social centers of the township as they were, when the writer appeared on the scene and as they exist practically unto this day, convenient subdivisions of the township for all purposes.

The early settlers were principally English, Scotch, German and Norwegian, with a sprinkling of Americans from New York, Ohio and New England, and occasionally a son of the Emerald Isle.

Among those who helped to make early history in this township who made an impress on the community and left a lasting impression on the minds of men in general and the writer in particular were the following: Preston village and vicinity—Conkey Bros., D. B. Coleman, A. Howell, Thomas Hall, J. P. Tibbetts, Jeremiah O'Brien, Thos. Quinn, Jacob Kramer, Rev. D. L. Kiehl, Attorneys Colburn and Wells, Drs. Redmond and Ross, and Samuel Shook, Walter Engle and Michael Martzolf. Partridge creek—Seven Duxbury brothers, four Mills brothers, Peter Button, John Kress, Ole Simonson, Amos Rose, Thos. Wilson, Ole Wilson, Chas. Schultz, Henry Rode, Oliver Williams, Purdy Hart, William Semper, Abraham Jaycox and Nelson Steele. Stone school—William Boice, C. Omacht and the Page family. Camp creek—E. O. Wilson, A. Moebs, Eli Perkins, George Wright, A. D. Knight, William Ginder, the Long brothers and the Hahn brothers. Scotland—Rev. A. J. Stead, Hutton brothers, Robert Henderson, Daniel Salisbury, Robert McCallum, Henry Milne, Duncan Stuart, S. S. Dunn, Peter McKay, William Elder, C. P. Lunde, Berge Olson, Ben Bendickson, Patrick Wrenn, the Tollefsons, Petersons, Cathcarts and Vickermans. High Grove—

John Livingood, D. M. Little, John Olson, the Nelsons and Larsons. John Travis was a noted character in the Scotland vicinity.

In the latter sixties and early seventies Scotland, then known as Hendersonville, became the acknowledged social center of rural Preston. A new school house and church were built, a post-office established, a store and blacksmith shop started, and a grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, and a literary society organized. "Scotland's booming, something doing" was ever the cry in those days. But the grange went the way of all such organizations in the middle West, the literary society died a natural death after nine years of existence and the postoffice was given up in the early eighties, being practically put out of commission when Harmony was established.

High Grove also had its high tide with its literary society and later the Farmers' Alliance, but it never reached the prominence of Hendersonville.

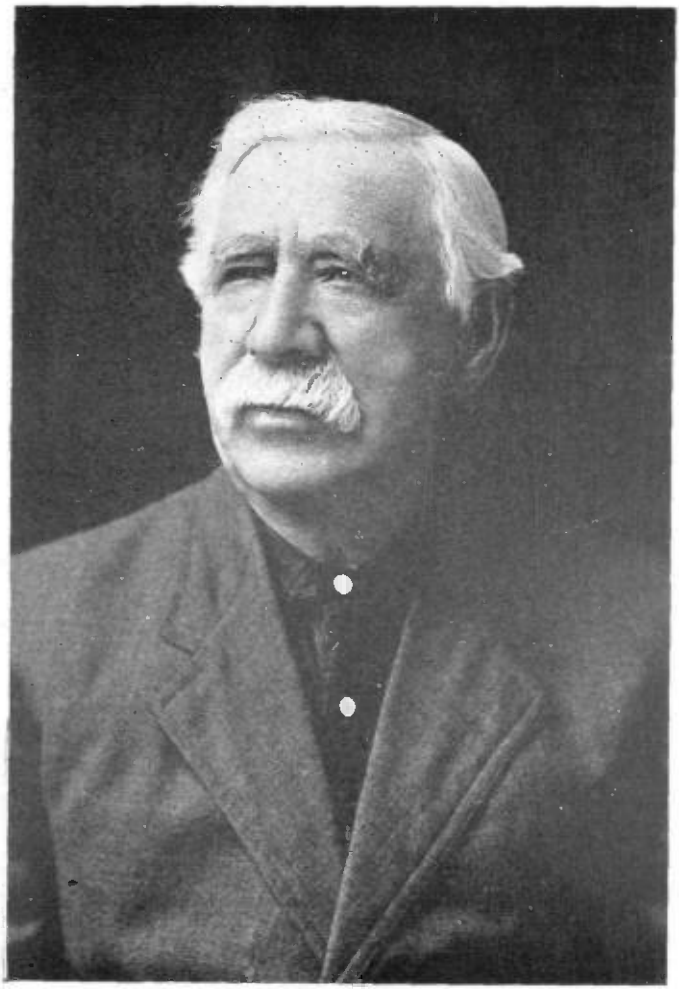
As a high-class school the one on Patridge creek called Yale College yielded the palm to none.

Hutton, a flag station midway between Preston and Harmony, was established as a postoffice in July, 1892, and was discontinued as such when rural free delivery went into effect some dozen years later. The project was originally promoted by a co-operative company, but was gradually turned over to private enterprise in the person of J. H. Duxbury, who still continues to do business.

Partridge Creek cemetery was established as such at a very early date, the latter fifties. The land was donated by John Duxbury and Oliver Williams, and it is a singular coincidence that these two men were the first persons to be buried therein, both in 1861.

An attempt to separate the village of Preston from the country part of the township was made by the country people in the latter sixties, but failed to carry by two votes, and the two remained together for township purposes until the spring of 1911, when a separation was obtained at the instance of the villagers.

A few further facts that come to mind of minor importance but still worthy of mere mention are as follows: The first Fourth of July celebration the writer had the pleasure of attending in the township was held in the latter sixties on what is known as "Hog's Back," in the Scotland neighborhood. It was just after the Civil War and patriotism and the military spirit still ran high. Preston and Scotland people combined to make it a success. The features that impressed us most were a company of farmer boys recruited and drilled in military maneuvers by Capt. William Vickerman, a real war captain and veteran, and free



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lemonade for everybody, made of lemons, pure water and sugar, mixed by Tom Hall, a good mixer of drinks, and paid for by the patriotic promoters.

Windy ridge, in the western part of the township, sloping toward Camp and Willow creeks; and Pumpkin ridge, in the eastern part, sloping to Bachelor and Partridge creeks, were so named from the winds that sweep with fearful force over the elevated, exposed surface of the former and from the great crops of pumpkins that were raised in early days on the latter. High grove was named from the tall timber in that vicinity, the tallest and most notable of which was Little's grove. The two principal streams were named Partridge and Camp creek, the former from the great number of partridges found there and the latter from the fact that travelers passing through this section usually camped on that stream.

The waters of the sand spring where John Vail built his house, now the source of supply for the city waterworks of Preston, won fame and favor in an early day from thirsty souls for their purity and palatability and later the distinction of the purest water in the state as proved by chemical analysis.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Salisbury, of the Scotland neighborhood, made a record for longevity rarely equaled in modern times, both attaining to an age considerably beyond the century mark.

Mrs. Robert Henderson, also of Scotland, while laying no claim to being a rifleshot or huntress, was of the stuff that pioneers are made of and had an eye, a hand and a taste for the game, as she proved by shooting, killing and dressing with her own hands a deer that came into their clearing one day during her husband's absence.

John Livingood was a big man from any point of view. Socially he was big enough to give his name to the school in his district, and physically broad enough to march in front of a double column of Preston men training for prospective military service, and be out of line on both sides at the same time.

Amos Rose was another big man, physically and otherwise, who left more than an ordinary impression upon people of his time and also upon the sands of time, as a farmer, stonemason, veterinarian and dentist.

There are many others among those already mentioned in a general way who are worthy of and deserving of more particular notice, but space forbids such mention of all, and we will close with only two more, feeling that we would be recreant to a duty did we fail to pay at least a slight passing tribute to Revs. David L. Kiehle, of Preston, and Allan J. Stead, of Scotland, who, in their chosen field of labor as preacher and teacher, by precept and example, in the opinion of the writer wielded a more potent

influence for good in religious, social and educational matters than any other two men who ever resided within the boundaries of Preston township. Rev. Kiehle still lives in far off Oregon; Rev. Stead went to his reward a few years ago, but both they and their works still live in the memory of the people and will continue to do so as long as time shall endure.

The writer has obtained much of his information for this article from Samuel Duxbury, Sr., who settled on Partridge creek in March, 1854.

"Yale College." Our school, district 47, known as the Duxbury School, the Mills School, the Dutton School and the Partridge Creek School, but better known as "Yale College," is one of the oldest as well as one of the best institutions of learning of its kind in this part of the state.

The exact time of its establishment I cannot give you, as I have not the data at my command, but it was about the year 1858 or 1859. The land for the school house site was donated by John Duxbury, one of the first settlers in this neighborhood, an uncle of the writer hereof, a man whom I never saw, but of whom I have heard much and never anything but good; a man with a fair, common education that he had picked up for himself while working in the cotton factories and occasionally attending night school in old England. He was deeply interested in the cause of popular education, his interest seemingly having been intensified by his own lack of opportunities. He died at the early age of forty-one years and his remains lie at rest in the Partridge Creek cemetery just east of Hutton. To his son, Samuel Duxbury, of Canton, Minn., I am indebted for what information I have in regard to the history of our school for the first eight years of its existence.

The first schoolhouse in this district was built of logs, both material and labor for its construction being donated by residents of the district. It stood a few feet to the eastward of where the schoolhouse now stands. The supervising architect was Otis Priest, a man who took great interest in educational matters and always remained loyal to this district, as is attested by the fact that the land which he then owned still forms a part of this district, although it joins the school site of district thirty-seven. The log house in which Otis Priest lived still stands on the farm of Peter Hutton. The log house in which John Duxbury lived and died also stands on the farm of Peter Hutton, about a quarter of a mile due east of the schoolhouse. Their good work still lives, though both have been dead many years.

The first school in this district was taught by a man by the name of Crouch, a shoemaker by trade, and a man of but limited education. The next teacher was a man by the name of Chandler

and he was followed by another named Kennedy. The winter term of 1865 and 1866 was taught by Ann Stork, who shortly afterwards became Mrs. A. H. Dayton. The summer term of 1866 was begun by Jennie Stowe, and here is where my first personal experience with the school began. At the end of the first month she married and the term was finished by Nettie Prescott. The school gradually dwindled in numbers, until there was nothing left of it but the teacher and myself and I enjoyed the novel and pleasant experience of having the company of a very nice schoolma'am all to myself for a whole week. Much to my regret, the school board failed to secure her services for the winter term and A. T. Hudson succeeded her. He was a farmer of very ordinary scholastic attainments, but with a good, strong right arm with which he was able to accomplish much good for the school as a disciplinarian. The next summer term was taught by Harriet Barnes, who shortly afterward became Mrs. Nels Brightman, of Granger. This was the last summer term of school I attended, although I continued to attend the winter term regularly up to the time I became twenty-one years of age. The next winter term was taught by Louis Schiveitzer, a young man of very ordinary scholarship, but an accomplished penman, who succeeded in doing much good, particularly in that branch. The next two terms, summer and winter, were taught by Joseph Adams, and I distinctly remember him as the only teacher I ever knew that run a school without a timepiece of any kind. He guessed his time and invariably cut our recesses and noons too short, and made our hours of study too long, causing him to become somewhat unpopular, of course.

It was at this time that so much interest was developed in the subject of spelling throughout the schools of the country. We spent much of our time studying and practicing in this branch and became quite expert performers and won the championship of the county.

It was during the next six or eight years, under the management of Jesse C. Johnson, of Spring Valley, and his immediate successors, that this school reached its highest point of excellence. It was at this time that it earned its title of "Yale College," and was conceded to be equal to any institution of learning in the county, not excepting the graded schools of Preston, Lanesboro and Spring Valley.

The present schoolhouse was built in the fall of the year 1874, and the old log building was torn down and used for fuel during the winter term of school. The first term of school in this building was taught by Helen Nash, of Lanesboro, a lady of more than ordinary teaching ability. The next winter term was taught by Jesse C. Johnson, a man who had already been

tried several terms in this school and found to possess teaching ability of the highest order. Others who followed immediately after as teachers were Edgar Clark, S. P. Watkins, Edwin Brady, Thomas Duxbury and J. H. Duxbury.

Among those I remember as having at one time or another wielded the rod of authority in this school, and not already mentioned, are Julia Mills, Hattie Scott, Mary Flemming, Mary Arnold, Rose Ford, Rosella Slater, Anna Krees, Tena Webye, Grace and Mary Mills, Mary A. and Anna G. Duxbury, Henrietta Rose, Jennie Henderson, Fanny Engle, Herbert Dunn, Edith Cathcart, Katie Wrenn, Joseph Maloney, E. C. Goodwin, Louis and Warren Cummings, Anna Thompson, Nettie Peterson, Fanny Ayer, Luther Hamm, Guy Gowdy, George Harsh, Mrs. Fifield, W. P. Durst, Emily Dayton and Maud Vought. Those of the above named, who obtained most of their education in this school, and afterward held the position of instructor in the same, are Anna Krees, Thomas Duxbury, J. H. and Mary A. Duxbury, Anna G. Duxbury, Grace and Mary E. Mills and Henrietta Rose.

The Scotland School. The people of this district finished a log schoolhouse in the spring of 1859, and the first teacher therein was Katherine Bursell, now Mrs. James Rice, of Canton. Following her came Duncan Murray, who perished in the blizzard of January 9, 1873. He was followed as teacher by Miss Garrison. Then came David Miller, Henry Tillotson, Ella Hoyt and Miss Daniels, but the order in which they taught has not been ascertained. Ida Butler taught the summer term of 1868; Hunt Edwards the winter term of 1866-67; A. J. Stead the winter of 1867-68; Alice McMurtrie the summer term of 1868; Alfred Edwards the winter term of 1868-69; and Laura Gale the summer term of 1869.

T. E. Fleming, who taught in the winter of 1869-70, was the first to hold sessions in the new schoolhouse. Since then the teachers have been as follows: Laura Gale, summer of 1870; J. H. Adams, winter of 1870-71; Matilda Galbraith, summer of 1871; G. M. Durst, winter of 1871-72; W. A. Nelson, summer of 1872 and winter of 1872-73; C. A. Thompson, summer of 1873; C. W. Prosser, winter of 1873-74; Charles Valder, summer of 1874, winter of 1874-75; R. A. Hunt, winter of 1875-76, summer of 1876, winter of 1876-77, summer of 1877; L. P. Watkins, winter of 1877-78, summer of 1878; M. H. Meade, winter of 1878-79; Jennie Foot, summer of 1879; J. H. Jewett, winter of 1879-80, summer of 1880, winter of 1880-81, summer of 1881, winter of 1881-82, summer of 1882, winter of 1882-83, summer of 1883; James McNee, winter of 1883-84; Kate Wrenn, summer of 1884; Thomas Duxbury, winter of 1884-85; Kate Wrenn, summer of 1885; Kate Maloney began November 26, 1885, taught a month,

then resigned, went west, settled on a claim near Seattle, Wash., and there perished in a prairie fire in the spring of 1887; Jacob Gossman, winter of 1885-86; Hattie Stahl, summer of 1886; Ella Grant, winter of 1886-87, summer of 1887; Eugene W. Gibbs, winter of 1887-88, summer of 1888, winter of 1888-89, summer of 1889, winter of 1889-90, summer of 1890; Ann E. Ferguson, winter of 1890-91, summer of 1891; Laura Rolfe, winter of 1891-92, summer and fall of 1892, winter of 1892-93, summer of 1892; Agnes Cathcart, winter of 1893-94, summer of 1894; Rupert Barnes, fall of 1894; Bertha Caple, winter of 1894-95; Rupert Barnes, summer of 1895; Cora Fairbanks, winter of 1895-96, summer of 1896; Mary B. Longwell, fall of 1896; Guy Gowdy, winter of 1896-97, summer of 1897; Mary Taber, fall of 1897, winter of 1897-98, summer of 1898, fall of 1898, winter of 1898-99, summer of 1899; Nellie Allison, 1899-1900; Agnes Cathcart, 1900-01; W. A. Alexander, 1901-02; Beulah Ramer, summer of 1902; Lydia Hahn, 1902-04; Myrtle Case, 1904-06; Vida Russell, 1906-07; Ruby Dunn, 1907-09; Zella Case, 1909-11; Stella Harstad, 1911-12.

The Noonan Case. On Saturday, October 17, 1874, Patrick Noonan, who lived three miles from Fountain, started for the latter place with a load of wheat, telling his wife as he left that he proposed to have "a spree and a row." Mrs. Noonan, therefore, sent her boy to town to inform the parties to whom Mr. Noonan would sell his wheat, of his intentions, and warned them not to let him have any money. Finding he could not get the cash for the wheat, Mr. Noonan borrowed $25. After drinking heavily, he began quarreling with a young man known in that vicinity as John Shinners, whose real name was John McDonald. After some harsh words, Shinners hit Noonan a blow in the face, but before the blow could be returned they were parted by the saloon-keeper. After this, during the whole evening the matter seemed weighing on Noonan's mind, and he was unusually silent and reticent, and seemed meditating a plan for revenge. That night Noonan met a clerk in the saloon, one Eric Gilbertson, and in course of conversation showed him a piece of lead whittled nearly round, about the size of a hen's egg, and told him he had "made that for Shinners and would fix him." Nothing more was done at that time, Noonan sleeping in the shoe shop over night, saying nothing to anyone.

About 9 o'clock the next morning (Sunday), Noonan walked up town, apparently sobered off and in good humor. He met Shinners at the corner, and the following words ensued: Noonan: "What did you hit me for last night?" Shinners: "Because you insulted me." Noonan: "How did I insult you?" Shinners: "It makes no difference. I don't feel at all like apologiz-

ing." Noonan: "Then tell me what you hit me for." Shinners: "Because I liked it." Noonan: "Well, you're a curious sort of a man." Shinners: "That's just the kind of a cat I am. I hit you because I liked it, and I am just that kind of a cat."

Shinners then went into the shoemaker's shop, and in a few moments came out, and, as he went by, Noonan tried to hit him. Shinners warded off the blow, at the same time making a jump into the street. If he had turned and grappled Noonan it is said the crime might have been avoided, but the moment he saw the weapon, which Noonan had done up in a handkerchief and used as a slung-shot, he thought his only safety lay in flight. He ran out in the middle of the street at his utmost speed, but Noonan was too much for him. He caught him just before he reached Patrick Ferris' hotel, and aimed a blow with his slung-shot, which hit him on the back of the neck, knocking him down. He hit him three or four quick, successive blows after he went down, one very severe one on the right side of the head, near the crown, which broke the skull; then, giving him a kick, ran up the street, exclaiming as he ran, "I done that because I liked it, by G—d! I've fixed him, d—n him!" Shinners died two days later.

Noonan made his way to the woods, and the most diligent search failed to unearth him. Nearly ten years have rolled by, and his whereabouts still remain a mystery. His family resided on the old homestead until March, 1882, when the entire family —mother and three children—left for parts unknown. It was generally supposed by the residents and pioneers that they had gone to meet the exiled husband and father, but where, no one but his family and himself know.

The above account from a former history of this county gives the earlier history of the case. But another chapter was to be written after a lapse of thirty years.

After committing the deed, Noonan went to Wabasha county, where he stayed three weeks. There he heard of Shinners' death. Driving twenty-five miles to Lake City, he boarded a train for Milwaukee, and from there made his way to Fulton City, Ill. Then he went west and had various experiences until arrested in Helena, Mont., and brought back to Fillmore county in 1902. The case was tried in November, the prosecuting attorney, John W. Hopp, being assisted by R. J. Parker, and the defense being in the hands of Thompson & Gray. Noonan was found guilty of manslaughter in the fourth degree and sentenced to one year in prison.

Abstract of Titles. Fillmore county has a complete and carefully compiled set of abstracts of title. It was compiled and owned by Lars O. Hamre, who was assisted in this laborious work by O. C. Dibble. The undertaking was commenced in 1875.

March 1, 1884, the entire set of abstracts was purchased by the Thompson Brothers. Several years later, A. W. Thompson purchased the interest of R. C. Thompson, and is the sole owner at the present time. The abstracts and index have been kept up to date, the work in the offices now requiring the attention of three persons.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

POLITICAL HISTORY.

Story of the Political Movements in Fillmore County—Original Democratic Influence Brought by Land Office Officials—Republicans Gain Control on Railroad Taxation Question—The Grange Movement—Greenbackers—Alliance—Men Who Have Been Prominent in State and National Politics.—Edited by Samuel A. Langum.

The political history of Fillmore county, so far as it concerns service in county office, has already been given in previous chapters. But there is an interesting story of political movements still untold. This story is formulated with the greatest difficulty. The leaders of the early days are dead, or at that stage of life where details of names and dates are no longer held clearly in the memory. The records are lacking in that personal element which would prove so interesting in a history of this sort. And unfortunately, although many of the leaders were men of literary ability, none has left us such a story as would enlighten us as to those stirring times when the policies and polities of Fillmore county were in the course of formation.

In general it may be said that the county was at first Democratic and the officeholders were of that faith. While since 1860, the county has been considered Republican, the contests between the two parties were close for many years; and in the first twenty-five years of the county's history many Democrats served on the county boards and were elected to the legislature, representing Democratic portions of the county. Even in those years, however, the county officers, elected as they were from the whole county, were largely Republican.

The People's movement, under various names, and sometimes fused with the Democratic ticket, was a considerable factor in the political life of the county from 1873 to 1902, its principal victories being in 1873, 1878 and 1890. Since 1902, except for occasional candidates, the Republican ticket has been the only county ticket in the field.

Previous to the removal of the county seat to Preston, the people had been too busy in providing for themselves homes and

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in building up new towns to pay much attention to politics. Members of the territorial legislature and the county officers had been elected with little regard to their party predilections.

In the spring of 1856, the United States Land Office was removed from Brownsville to Chatfield, and the land officers being administration Democrats, proceeded to organize their party. Their first political meeting, it is said, was held in Tillotson's grove on what is now the county farm. Being in a territory the people of Fillmore county then had no vote in the national election of 1856, and there was no general canvass. In the spring of 1857, the Republican party was fully organized and entered the contest for six delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The county was thoroughly canvassed and the result was the election of the Republican ticket. The delegates were: H. A. Billings, of Spring Valley; H. W. Holley, of Chatfield; A. H. Butler, of Newburg; N. P. Colburn, of Carimona; John Cleghorn, of Elliota, and Charles Hanson, of York.

The county election in 1858 was a contested one. The canvassers threw out vote from the town of Chatfield on account of alleged illegal voting, and this gave the Republicans a majority of 100, but finally the matter coming into court, the judge (Wilson) reversed the action of the board, and ordered the Chatfield vote to be counted, thus keeping the Democrats in power.

In 1859, the Republican party went into the field on the motto "No taxation for railroad purposes," and carried the state and county principally on that issue.

In 1860, when there was a state movement to form a People's Union party, several Fillmore county men were interested. However, only the two parties, the Democrats and the Republicans, went into the campaign.

In 1863, Charles D. Sherwood, of Fillmore county, was speaker of the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and in the campaign of that fall was the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor, serving in 1864 and 1865. Fillmore county at that time was one of the most populous in the state, and many of her citizens were men of state prominence.

In the fall of 1865, Major John R. Jones, of Fillmore county, was on the Democratic ticket as candidate for secretary of state.

In the fall of 1866, the two parties in the field were the Republicans and Democrats, and this arrangement continued for several years. In 1868, John Q. Farmer, afterward a distinguished judge, was speaker of the house, his residence being at Spring Valley.

In 1869, the Prohibition party appears in state politics for the first time. A number of votes for this party were polled in Fillmore county.

Horace Greely with his Liberal Republican ticket drew a few votes from the county in 1872.

The Grange movement began to be felt in state and county politics in 1873. The Grange, or as it was officially called, the Society of the Patrons of Husbandry, was an organization of farmers all over the United States, with local Granges in practically every hamlet and township, the object being the betterment of farm conditions and the welfare of the poor man. The Civil War issues were dead, and new issues were now before the people, the principal one being the increasing powers of the railroads and other monopolies. The Grangers, or, as those of the movement who were interested in politics called themselves, the Anti-Monopolists, first went into the Republican state convention of 1873 and endeavored to control that party. The Fillmore county representation was especially strong. When the first fight came over the selection of a speaker of the convention, J. Q. Farmer, of Spring Valley, received 138 votes against 166 for W. H. Yale, of Winona. As a nominee for lieutenant governor on the ticket, N. P. Colburn, of Fillmore county, received 136 votes against 170 for A. Barto. The Grangers and Anti-Monopolists, not satisfied with the Republican platform, formed the People's Anti-Monopoly Party, and the Democratics fused with them.

In 1876, the Greenbackers, who constituted a movement which was the outgrowth of the Granger and Anti-Monopoly movements, began to be felt, and in the fall of 1877 an active campaign was conducted in this county. It was in this campaign that Thomas J. Meighen, who had been interested in the previous People's movements, so called, came to the front as a political factor, he being the first chairman of the Greenback county committee. He was subsequently chairman of the Alliance county committee.

In the fall of 1877, William Meighen was a candidate for governor on the Greenback ticket.

The campaign of 1878 was one of the most interesting ever held in the county. There was a straight Republican county ticket in the field, and against this was arrayed a county fusion ticket of Greenbackers and Democrats. The fusion ticket succeeded in electing Ole Allen, sheriff, and sent C. S. Powers to the senate and J. N. Graling and Peter McCracken to the house. They were re-elected in 1880.

In 1879, the same party elected Ed Stevens as a member of the board of county commissioners. In 1881, they elected R. M. Foster. In 1882, they re-elected Mr. Stevens and elected Thomas Quinn, and thus with Stevens, Foster and Quinn, the board of county commissioners in 1883 and 1884 was in control of the Greenback, or at least the Fusion, party.

In 1881, while this Greenback movement was at its height, W. W. Braden, from this county, was elected state auditor on the Republican ticket, serving from January, 1882, to January, 1891.

In 1882, Milo White, of Chatfield, was elected to congress on the Republican ticket.

The Alliance movement had its beginning in 1887. It was especially strong in Fillmore county, and at one time there were no less than twenty-five local organizations here. The Alliance movement, like the Granger movement, concerned itself with the material as well as the political life of the farmers, and like the Grange, had purchasing agents, stores and elevators. It also had a number of creameries, and was really the progenitor of the present co-operative movements among the farmers.

John A. Lovely opposed Milo White as a candidate for the nomination as congressman on the Republican ticket, and the convention, which was held at Kasson, took 113 ballots, extended over a period of three days, before Mr. Lovely won out and had his name placed on the ticket. Mr. Lovely was in turn defeated at the following election by Judge Thomas Wilson, of Winona.

In 1888, C. G. Edwards, of this county, was a delegate to the national Republican convention at Chicago, and was placed on the committee on resolutions.

In 1890, W. W. Braden, of Fillmore county, was candidate for nomination of governor on the Republican ticket. The convention gave him thirty-four votes, while Nelson received seventy-five and Merriam 350.

The Fusion ticket, consisting of Alliance, Democrats and Prohibitionists, in 1890, elected Ole P. Hadland and A. H. Gilmore to the legislature, and through their efforts a bill was passed, lowering the salaries of the county officials of Fillmore county. The bill, which under the suspension of the rules, passed the senate and house on the day it was introduced, provided that the proposition be submitted to the people of the county. The question being duly submitted in the fall of 1891, the people by an overwhelming majority voted in favor of the reduction. These special laws have, however, been since repealed.

In 1891, the People's party having been born, Thomas J. Meighen was named the chairman of the People's party state central committee. In 1892, A. D. Gray was one of the Republican presidential electors.

In 1896, Thomas J. Meighen was candidate at large for presidential elector on the Democratic ticket. The same year, Burdett Thayer was presidential elector on the Republican ticket. A. D. Gray was a delegate to the Republican national convention. In 1908, R. E. Thompson was presidential elector on the Republican ticket.

In 1900, William Meighen was nominated on the Democratic ticket as a presidential elector, and the same year Thomas J. Meighen was candidate for lieutenant governor on the Fusion Democratic-People's ticket. Two years later Thomas J. Meighen was a candidate for governor on the People's ticket.

In 1902, Samuel G. Iverson was elected state auditor on the Republican ticket, and has since retained that position.

In the fall of 1910, Sidney J. Anderson, a young lawyer from Lanesboro, was elected to congress from the First district, and is still serving.

The Republican party is now and has been for many years firmly entrenched in the county. The present Republican county committee is composed of the following gentlemen: E. K. Blexrud, chairman; W. B. Huntley, Geo. Andrus, C. K. Foss and J. P. Johnson.

From the foregoing brief review it will be seen that Fillmore county has taken a somewhat active part in the affairs of state and nation, and many of her sons have been entrusted with positions of honor and emoluments. As intimated at the beginning of this chapter, the making of a complete history, embellished with interesting personal experiences, especially of the earlier days, is an impossible task owing to the passing away of the men who participated, while the even tenor of latter-day events leaves no room for extended comment. Hence this narrative must of necessity be largely composed of facts, names and dates—a mere matter of chronology.

Publishers' Note. The editor of this chapter has refrained from mentioning his own prominent part in state and national life, and for this reason the following brief note is appended:

S. A. Langum was elected secretary of the state senate in 1895, and held that position for eight consecutive sessions, including one special session, breaking the record for continuous service. In 1898, he was a candidate for secretary of state against Albert Berg, the then incumbent, and fell short forty votes in a convention of 1,000 delegates. Again in 1900, he opposed Peter E. Hanson and others, leading on the first ballot, but again failed of nomination through a series of untoward circumstances. At the close of the 1907 session of the state senate he was by resolution requested to serve as secretary of the 1909 senate, composed of the same senators, an honor never before bestowed by that body, but he was destined not to comply with the request, as in December, 1907, he was elected postmaster of national House of Representatives at Washington, serving as such during the Sixtieth and Sixty-first congresses, retiring with incoming of a Democratic house.

JAMES C. McNEE AND FAMILY

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

AGRICULTURAL HISTORY.

Pioneer Farmers—Breaking the Ground—Early Drawbacks—Census Report of Live Stock and Farm Products—Roads and Bridges—Fillmore County Agricultural Society—Underground Waters—Edited by John C. Mills.

Fillmore is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous agricultural and stock raising counties in Minnesota. Its people are wide awake and keep step with the procession in industry and culture. The first settlers of the county were mostly farmers, and they were, with but few exceptions poor men, as is the case in the history of every agricultural region. In fact, few had more than enough to barely get settled upon their lands; but they came with that which was in those days equal to it—training in agricultural pursuits, brawny hands that were able and not ashamed to work, and in connection with industrious habits the energy and determination to win success. The country was new, and there was no alternative but that success must be wrought from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only hope. And, in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, notwithstanding the fact that the whole aim of the farming community has changed, success attended their efforts. Nor is the end yet reached, but the county has a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which as years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the agricultural population becomes more and more able to utilize it.

In the earliest days, when the land was first broken, it was grubby and hard, and rutabagas were largely grown. Gradually the common vegetables were raised, and wheat early became the main product, and for a number of years excellent crops were raised with scarcely a failure. At the present time, wheat has given its former place to other cereals, and the farmers find other avenues, especially dairying and hog raising, in which to devote their time and energy.

The farms of Fillmore county are similar to the farms of any other county having a similar climate and soil. It has its good farms and its poor farms. Agriculture, like every other trade or

profession, has its failures and successes, but perhaps not so many complete failures.

The high altitude gives to Fillmore county an ideal climate. Its mean temperature for summer is 70 degrees, the same as middle Illinois, Ohio and southern Pennsylvania. The extreme heat that is felt in these states is here tempered by the breezes of the elevated plateau. Its higher latitude gives two hours more of sunshine than at Cincinnati. This with an abundance of rainfall, 26.36 inches annually, on a rich soil, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops and their early maturity. There is a uniformity of temperature during the winter season in southern Minnesota, with bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, good sleighing and infrequent thaws that make life a pleasure in this bracing, healthy climate.

The soil is for the most part a deep, rich, warm loam with clay subsoil. Cultivation is easy and "irrigation and dry farming" that one hears so much about to-day, and which is so necessary to secure a crop on much of the new lands that are being opened up in the West, at so great an expense, are not needed here. During the past few years a number of farms have been tiled and with such marked success that within a few years most of the farms will be improved in this respect. The lay of the land is such that almost every farmer gets good drainage without difficulty.

The first settlers found here a rich, unbroken virgin soil, a land that had none but nature's care from time immemorial. Century after century, year after year, the grasses grew in all their richness and the flowers bloomed to waste their fragrance on the summer air. No foot trod the unbroken stretches save that of wild beasts or bird, or the red warrior. No plowshare turned the green sod, nor was it torn by the iron tooth of the harrow, from the time an almighty power had unrolled it like a carpet until 1851, when a few settlers reached the southeast corner, and started raising a small crop for family use.

Fillmore county has no state highways of macadam. The roads, which are made of the soil of the county, on the whole are good, and some of them are kept in the best of condition. This county understood road-building in the earliest days, and the greatest volume of business done by the early county commissioners and supervisors was in establishing road districts and providing for the maintenance of highways.

There was a time in Fillmore county when, like all new lands, the first consideration was to build good barns for the housing of the flocks and herds, and the home was the most inconspicuous object in the landscape. As the farmers prospered the log house disappeared and now there are few log houses in the entire

county. Now the farmer's house vies with the city residence, and has many of the modern conveniences. Where electric light and power cannot be secured, gasoline engines furnish power, and a number of farm houses are lighted by their own gas plants. By the use of elevated tanks in the house or barn, or pneumatic tanks in cellars, farm houses often have all the sanitary conveniences of a house in town. Our farmers recognize the value of keeping their property in the best of shape. Houses and barns are well painted, lawns are carefully kept and flower gardens show that our people recognize that the things which beautify add a value to life as well as to property.

The first two problems which confronted the early settlers were sustenance and shelter. The wagon in which the settlers came, or the log cabin provided shelter. The ground must provide the sustenance.

The settlers found here a wide diversity of soil and surface, prairie land, forests, oak openings, bottom lands along the streams, and many hillsides. To break the sod, a breaking plow drawn by four to six yoke of oxen was required, the neighbors pooling their interests and helping each other. By this method, about two acres of land could be broken a day. In this way, the settlers had a few acres broken, and started raising such food stuffs as were needed for their own tables. The hopes of crops in 1857 was blasted, and there ensued the hard winter of 1857-58, during which the people existed on little more than cornmeal.

In 1858 and 1859, the crops were better, and in 1860, when Gov. Alexander Ramsay issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, the soil of Fillmore county had brought forth its increase in abundant measure.

The Civil War caused a severe setback in the progress of Fillmore county agriculture. At the outbreak of the war, the county was on the road to success and prosperity. Improved land was worth from $5 to $10 an acre, and more land was being broken each year. The average cultivated field consisted of some twenty or thirty acres, upon which wheat was the principal crop; other vegetables and grains being raised practically for home use only. But the war called the able-bodied men to the front, and the old men, the invalids, and the women and children were left to operate the farms as best they could.

The insect pests were not strongly in evidence in the early days. The most serious of these pests, the Colorado beetle, better known as the potato bug, put in its appearance in 1865, and flourished until 1870, when the Paris green method of killing them was introduced, since which date they have been successfully fought. In the sixties, the rats also made their first appearance in the county, brought here by immigration. Snakes have always been

plentiful, and in the early days the deadly rattlers were a serious menace to Fillmore county husbandmen. In 1873, the grasshopper plague began to work its ravages in the state, but did little damage in Fillmore county. The chinch bugs made their appearance in 1879, and the next three or four years their ravages were so great and such great losses were sustained by the farmers that wheat ceased to be the staple crop from that time. The cultivation of corn, oats and barley was substituted for that of wheat, the live stock industry and dairying was introduced, and from this time a new era dawned for Fillmore county. Land rose in value from $15 or $20 to $100 and $150 per acre.

The story of the primitive tools used in the early days, the gradual introduction of modern machinery, and installation of the windmill, the gasoline engine, the silo, the milk separator and other improvements is a history which this county has in common with all the other counties of southern Minnesota. The almost exclusive use of oxen in the early days, the gradual introduction after the war of horses for farm work, and the still more gradual introduction of steam and motor power is also a tale that can be told of all the counties in this region, and is not peculiar to Fillmore county. However, an interesting article on this subject by William Willford appears in another chapter in this work.

The year 1868 marked an important epoch in the agricultural history of Fillmore county. It was this year that the Southern Minnesota R. R. came through, and provided an output for the Fillmore county wheat. Previous to this, grain had been carted to McGregor, Iowa, or Brownsville or Winona. Railroad facilities gave impetus to all farm pursuits, and thousands of acres of wild land were broken every year, from 1868 to 1877. The latter year marked the greatest wheat crop of the finest quality that the county has ever known. The next year the crop was much smaller, and wheat raising in the county has, since 1879, gradually decreased, corn raising and dairying and stock raising taking its place.

The farmers of Fillmore county have had many difficulties to overcome. The gophers, the blackbirds, the pigeon and the prairie chickens were deadly enemies to the crops from the earliest days. Then, too, the climate presented difficulties, for although most of the settlers had considerable experience as farmers, their experience had been in warmer sections, and the climate here, with its early frosts, was a new condition to which they must become accustomed.

The following report of Fillmore county issued in connection with the Thirteenth Census of the United States, speaks for itself in regard to the present day agricultural conditions in the county.

Population, 25,680 (in 1900, 28,238).

Number of all farms, 3,213 (in 1900, 3,477).

Color and nativity of all farmers. Native whites, 2,142; foreign born whites, 1,071.

Number of farm classified by size: Under three acres, 2; from three to nine acres, 64; from ten to nineteen acres, 68; from twenty to forty-nine acres, 248; from fifty to ninety-nine acres, 528; from 101 to 174 acres, 1,152; from 175 to 259 acres, 708; from 260 to 499 acres, 410; from 500 to 999 acres, 30; over 1,000 acres, 3.

Land and farm areas: Approximate land area, 555,520 acres. Land in farms, 518,814 acres. (Land in farms in 1900, 521,261 acres.) Improved land in farms, 391,336 acres. (Improved land in farms in 1900, 389,386 acres.) Woodland in farms, 87,917 acres. Other unimproved land in farms, 39,561 acres. Per cent of the whole county in farms, 93.4 per cent. Per cent of farm land improved, 75.4 per cent. Average acres to each farm, 161½. Average improved acres to each farm, 121½.

Value of farm property: All farm property, $36,250,145. (In 1900 the value was $20,358,108.) The percentage of increase in farm value in ten years was 78.1 per cent. Value of land alone, $24,236,255. (Value of land alone in 1900, $14,240,595.) Value of buildings alone, $6,481,481. (Value of buildings alone in 1900, $2,801,725.) Value of implements and machinery, $1,075,637. (Value of implements in 1900, $653,260.) Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees, $4,456,772. (Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees in 1900, $2,662,528.) Per cent of value of all property in land, 66.9 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in buildings, 17.9 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in implements and machinery, 3 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in domestic animals, poultry and bees, 12.2 per cent.

Average values: Average value of all property per farm, $11,282. Average value of land and buildings per farm, $9,560. Average value of land per acre, $46.71. (The average value per acre in 1900 was $27.32.)

Domestic animals on farms and ranges: Farmers reporting domestic animals, 3,161. Value of domestic animals, $4,327,856.

Cattle: Total number, 61,713. Dairy cows, 21,937. Other cows, 6,958. Calves, 9,232. Yearling heifers, 9,157. Yearling steers and bulls, 8,323. Other steers and bulls, 6,106. Total value, $1,435,423.

Horses: Total number, 17,001. Mature horses, 14,971. Yearling colts, 1,884. Spring colts, 146. Total value, $2,143,116.

Mules: Total number, 49. Mature mules, 47. Yearling colt, 1. Spring colt, 1. Value, $6,655.

Asses and burros: Total number, 17. Total value, $365.

Swine: Total number, 56,381. Mature hogs, 32,808. Spring pigs, 23,573. Value, $568,675.

Sheep: Total number, 34,277. Rams, ewes and wethers, 25,024. Spring lambs, 9,253. Value, $173,483.

Goats: Number, 31. Value, $139.

Poultry and bees: Poultry of all kinds, 264,535. Value, $117,634. Number of colonies of bees, 3,094. Value, $11,282.

Farms operated by owners, 2,317. (Farms operated by owners in 1900, 2,652.) Per cent of all farms in the county operated by owners, 72.1. (In 1900, 76.3 of all the farms in the county were operated by their owners.)

Land in the farms operated by owners, 368,646 acres. Improved land in farms operated by owners, 274,077. Value of lands and buildings in farms operated by owners, $21,698,416.

Degree of ownership: Number of farms operated by owners consisting of owned lands only, 1,804. Number of farms operated by owners which also include with the owned land some hired land, 513. Of the men in the county owning and operating their own farms, 1,430 are native born and 887 foreign born.

Farms operated by tenants: Number of farms, 879. (Number of farms operated by tenants in 1900, 802.) Of all the farms in the county, 27.4 per cent are operated by tenants. In 1900 the per cent was 23.1.

Land in rented farms, 146,790 acres. Improved land in rented farms, 114,880 acres. Value of land and buildings in rented farms, 8,835,995.

Form of tenancy: Share tenants, 501. Share-cash tenants, 65. Cash tenants, 247. Tenure not specified, 66. Of the people renting farms in the county, 697 are native born and 182 foreign born.

Farms operated by managers: Number of farms operated by managers, 17. (In 1900, there were twenty-three farms operated by managers.) Land in farms operated by managers, 3,378 acres. Improved land in farms operated by managers, 2,379 acres. Value of land and buildings in farms operated by managers, $183,325.

Mortgage debt reports of farms operated by their owners: Number free from mortgage debt, 1,427. Number with mortgage debt, 855. Number of which no mortgage report was made, 35.

For farms consisting of owned land only: Number reporting debt and amount, 594. Value of their land and buildings, $5,074,442. Amount of mortgage debt, $1,513,896. Per cent of value of land and buildings mortgaged, 29.8 per cent.

Farm expenses: For labor. Number of farms from which

reports were obtained, 1,903. Cash expended for labor on these farms, $316,204. Rent and board furnished for labor, $106,597.

For feed: Number of farms reporting on this question, 907. Amount expended, $79,755.

For fertilizer: Number of farms reporting on this question, 18. Amount expended, $374.

Principal crops: Corn, 57,507 acres; bushels, 1,913,779. Oats, 70,775 acres; bushels, 2,198,157. Wheat—Common winter wheat, 190 acres; bushels, 3,273. Common spring wheat, 8,662 acres; bushels, 149,599. Durum or macaroni, 412 acres; bushels, 6,643. Barley, 53,171 acres; bushels, 1,352,663. Rye, 482 acres; bushels, 7,606. Flaxseed, 5,528 acres; bushels, 61,103. Timothy seed, 30,302 acres; bushels, 156,082. Potatoes, 1,549 acres; bushels, 172,405.

Hay and forage: Total, 63,141 acres; tons, 119,711. Timothy alone, 12,293 acres; tons, 21,147. Timothy and clover mixed, 42,437 acres; tons, 81,986. Other tame or cultivated grass, exclusive of clover alone and alfalfa, 1,683 acres; tons, 2,189. Wild or prairie grass, 2,179 acres; tons, 3,389. All other hay and forage, 4,549 acres; tons, 11,000.

The following live stock is taxed in Fillmore county, according to the list of 1911: Horses, mules and asses—One year old, 1,812; two years old, 1,598; three years old, 10,305; stallions, fine bred mares and race horses, 78. Cattle—One year old, 13,497; two years old, 8,692; cows, 18,450; all other cattle, three years and over. 8,382. Sheep, 20,771. Hogs, 18,062.

An interesting comparison may be made between these figures and the following report issued by the state for the year 1880:

Wheat, 167,198 acres, yielding 1,491,937 bushels—8.92 per acre. Oats, 33,476 acres, yielding 1,297,966 bushels—35.78 per acre. Corn, 24,420 acres, 909,729 bushels—37.25 per acre. Barley, 6,180 acres, 140,002 bushels—22.65 per acre. Rye, 126 acres, 1,708 bushels—13.55 per acre. Buckwheat, 554 acres, 2,736 bushels—5.11 per acre. Potatoes, 1,400 acres, 143,185 bushels—102.28 per acre. Beans, 58 acres, 648 bushels—11.14 per acre. Sugar cane, 216 acres, 25,757 gallons of syrup, yielding 119.24 gallons per acre. Cultivated hay, 22,153 acres, 28,184 tons. Flaxseed, 14 acres, 149 bushels. Root crops, etc., 839 acres, making a total acreage under cultivation in the county for these crops, 259,634.

In addition to the above there was raised (in 1880): Wild hay, 8,856 tons; Timothy seed, 9,597 bushels; clover seed, 2,377 bushels; apples, 7,912 bushels; grapes, 4,209 pounds; butter produced, 689,076 pounds; cheese, 12,716 pounds; honey, 26,280 pounds; maple sugar, 100 pounds; maple syrup, 63 gallons; strawberries, 2,027 quarts; tobacco, 2,640 pounds; wool, 14,077 pounds. Apple trees: The number reported in county is 88,389,

and of these there are in bearing, 20,166. Sheep, whole number, 7,704. Grape vines in bearing, 766.

Roads and Bridges. The first attention paid to road matters by the commissioners of Fillmore county was on July 9, 1853, at the Winona Hotel, Winona, when it was ordered that a road be laid out by the most feasible route from Minnesota City to Winona. This was outside the present limits of Fillmore county. The viewers were Harvey Hubbard and E. B. Drew.

The first road that the commissioners ordered laid out from a point within the present limits of the county was one from Winona on Wabasha Prairie, through Burns' Valley, thence to the town of Chatfield. This act was taken at the home of Robert Pike, Jr., in Minnesota City. The viewers appointed were James McClelland and William Hewett. When Winona county was set off, February 20, 1855, it left much of this route outside of Fillmore county. At the meeting of commissioners held in Chatfield, April 7, 1854, the part of the route left in Fillmore county, that is the part of the route that is now in Olmstead county, had been viewed and was ordered surveyed, while the commissioners recommended that the road from the boundary line of the county (that is, the present boundary line of Olmsted county) to Winona, should be constructed by the commissioners of the newly created Winona county.

The first road entirely within the present limits of Fillmore county ordered built by the county commissioners by one connecting Elliota, section thirty-two, 101, nine, with Warpeton, section four, 102, eleven, thence to Chatfield. This action was taken by the commissioners April 7, 1854, and the viewers appointed were J. W. Elliott and J. C. Pickett.

October 2, 1854, the board of commissioners divided the county into three road districts as follows:

District one. Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104; ranges eight, nine and ten.

District two. Townships 101, 102, 103 and 104; ranges eleven, twelve and thirteen.

District three. Townships 105 and 106; ranges eleven, twelve and thirteen. This district was outside the limits of present limits of Fillmore county.

In January, 1856, L. M. Smith was appointed road supervisor in the First district, H. B. Morse in the Second, and John H. Main in the Third.

July 22, 1857, the first road tax in the county was laid. In Carimona, Preston and Chatfield precincts a tax of 3 mills was laid; in Elliota precinct a tax of 2½ mills, and in Waterford precinct a tax of $100. The extent of these precincts at that time

may be learned by studying the chapter on Organization and Boundary Lines in this work.

The first official action taken in regard to bridges in Fillmore county was at the meeting of January 6, 1857, when the commissioners appropriated $500 for the completion of a bridge over the main branch of the Root river, on the county road from Preston to Chatfield; $200 for the completion of a bridge across the north branch of Root river, on the territorial road from Mankato to La Crosse; $200 for the completion of a bridge across the south branch of Root river at Preston, on the territorial road from Rochester to Iowa state line; $200 for the completion of a bridge across the middle branch of Root river, on the territorial road from Elliota to St. Paul.

At the present time the roads of Fillmore county are in excellent condition, and large appropriations are made each year for the construction and maintainance of roads and bridges.

The Freeborn County Agricultural Society will hold, in 1912, its fifty-third annual fair. All the fairs, with the exception of three at Lanesboro, have been held at Preston, on a plat laid out in 1872 by H. S. Bassett and others on land of Barbara Schweitzer, now owned by the village of Preston, and leased to the Agricultural Society for fifty years. The society and its fairs have done much to encourage agriculture in the county, and the grounds are well kept. It is now proposed that a large horse barn and a modern floral hall be built in the immediate future. This year the sum of nearly $5,000 is offered in prizes, premiums and purses. The officers are: President, James O'Hara; vice-president, A. W. Thompson; treasurer, Thomas I. Garratt; secretary, Frank J. Ibach; board of managers, E. S. Holton, B. G. Duxbury, C. Boyer, D. D. Ayer, Charles Dunn, Charles Utley and A. H. Langum.

UNDERGROUND WATERS.

The water supply in Fillmore county is excellent. A report of these waters by C. W. Hall and M. L. Fuller has recently been issued by the United States Government. The following information culled from this report is of greatest interest to the people of the county:

Fillmore county lies on what was originally a broad plateau. In the western and southern portions of the county the plateau character is still preserved, but in the northern and eastern parts the surface is very rugged, consisting of deep, sharp valleys separated by ridges with flat or gently rolling crests, the latter representing remnants of the original surface. The elevation of the plateau in the western half of the county is more than 1,300 feet above sea level, but to the east it descends to 1,250 feet, or

about 550 to 600 feet above the Mississippi. In the western part of the county, where the plateau has not been dissected, it is fairly level, the flatness being due in part to the mantle of glacial drift that rests upon it. Farther east there is little or no drift, but the upland surface is covered by a thin mantle of yellowish silt or loess, which, though it somewhat masks the inequalities of the rock surface, does not completely hide them, leaving a rather rolling surface. In the areas underlain by the Galena limestone and Decorah shale occasional basins or sink holes as well as mounds and low hills of the limestone occur.

The principal valleys are those carved by Root river and its tributaries. In the harder rocks the valleys are narrow and canyon-like, but those in the softer rocks reach a width of a mile in places and contain extensive deposits of alluvium. The streams generally flow in rapids where they cross from harder to softer rocks, the change also being marked by terraces along the sides of the valleys. In some places bluffs and picturesque pinnacles border the valleys.

Surface Deposits. The surface deposits include alluvium, loess and glacial drift. The alluvium of Fillmore county includes the gravels and sands deposited by Root river and its tributaries. The thickness of these deposits in some places is not known, but perhaps reaches fifty feet or more, the average probably being between twenty-five and thirty feet. They contain considerable water and usually yield ample supplies for domestic and farm purposes. The loess is a fine yellow loamy silt deposited over the uplands to a depth rarely exceeding ten feet. It is unimportant as a water-bearing bed, but is of value owing to the fact that it collects rainfall and feeds it to the underlying rock.

The glacial drift of Fillmore county consists chiefly of clay mixed with pebbles and bowlders, but locally it contains gravel and sand layers and in some places deposits of peat. It is found mainly in the western third of the county, where its greatest thickness is 100 feet. In the eastern part it is very thin, in many places occurring only in scattered patches. No water is found in these thin isolated deposits, but in the sand and gravel layers of the thick accumulations quantities sufficient for farm and domestic purposes occur. Certain dark clays, about 20 feet thick and underlain by several feet of waterbearing sandstone, have been thought to be cretaceous, but there is little ground for this assumption.

Paleozoic Formations. The Devonian rocks in Fillmore county consist of thin-beeded, even-grained, granular, yellow magnesian and arenaceous limestones. They outcrop on the hilltops in the southwestern townships and have a total thickness of about 100

feet. They afford a small supply of water to shallow wells and give rise to occasional springs.

The Maquoketa shale consists of calcareous and sandy shales aggregating about eighty feet in thickness. It outcrops along a northwest-southeast line from a point near Hamilton on the western to Granger on the southern boundary. Because of their impervious character the shales contain practically no water, but intercept the water seeping through the overlying Devonian and residuary material, forming an important spring horizon.

The Galena limestone, Decorah shale, and Platteville limestone outcrop in a number of bluffs bordering the headwaters of Root river. On the uplands the Galeua limestone yields moderate quantities of water, but near the valley edges the water is largely lost by leakage. The supplies from the Platteville limestone are very small, as the water either escapes into the adjacent valleys where the formation outcrops or sinks into the underlying St. Peter sandstone.

The St. Peter sandstone outcrops in the upper parts of the bluffs bordering the principal streams and constitutes the surface rock on the upland areas in the eastern third of the county. It yields large supplies except near the valleys, where leakage has removed most of the water.

The Shakopee dolomite is about 75 feet thick and is exposed in the bluffs bordering the principal streams in the eastern half of the county. Where it lies beneath the St. Peter sandstone it seems to hold up the water in that formation and makes shallow wells possible. It carries some water in its bedding planes and sandy layers, but rarely affords supplies to wells. It gives rise to some springs along the valleys.

The New Richmond sandstone is from twenty-five to forty feet thick and outcrops in the principal valleys. It is not an important source of water supply.

The Oneota dolomite is essentially a magnesian limestone, but in this county carries some green sand and occasionally shaly layers. It is about 200 feet thick and is exposed in the valleys of Root river and its tributaries. It carries less water than the alluvium of the valleys and less than the overlying New Richmond. In itself it is not to be regarded as a source of water supply.

The Jordau sandstone is about 100 feet thick. It outcrops in the Root river valley as far upstream as Lanesboro and also along several tributaries of this stream in the eastern portion of the county. Along its exposures in the valleys the supplies of water that it yields are usually small, but to the west where it passes under the uplands it carries large amounts of water and is the strongest water-bearing bed encountered. Here the water

must, however, be raised several hundred feet to bring it to the surface.

The St. Lawrence formation consists of about 175 feet of limestones, shales, and sandy beds, of which about seventy-five feet are exposed in the bottom of the Root river valley below Peterson. It carries a little water in the sandy beds, but because everywhere except in the valley mentioned it is overlain by the Jordan, which is a much stronger water bearer, it is of little importance as a source of supply.

The Dresbach sandstone occurs about 125 feet below Root river at the eastern boundary of the county. It is an open porous sandstone, saturated with water under considerable pressure, and yields supplies that rise nearly or quite to the surface of the river bottoms. In the valleys and near the edge of the uplands this sandstone affords the best source of water, but where it is deep below the surface, as in the western part of the county, there is no advantage in sinking to it, as equally satisfactory supplies can be obtained from the Jordan at a considerably less depth.

Beneath the Dresbach sandstone are shales that carry little or no water. Below these shales is a sandstone that affords large volumes of water, but perhaps no more than the Dresbach sandstone, although it is under somewhat greater head. At still greater depths is the red elastic series, resting in turn on a granite foundation.

Underground Water Conditions. Head of the Water. Flowing wells are obtained in the valleys of Root river and its affluents as far upstream as Rushford. The water comes from the Dresbach and underlying sandstones and rises to 730 feet above sea level. It will not, however, rise to the surface in the upper parts of the valley, and on the uplands stands several hundred feet below the surface. Even in the highest portions of the county, the water from shallow horizons underlain by impervious formations, may stand near the surface. The head of the drift wells varies with their position, depending on the altitude of the surrounding morainic masses and outwash plains. There are several flowing wells in township 101, range thirteen, near the state line, and others occur along the upper Iowa river in Iowa.

Quality of the Water. The water of the county is all moderately hard. It contains considerable quantities of calcium and magnesium and the bicarbonate radicle, but is not otherwise highly mineralized.

Wells. The wells of Fillmore county may be divided into several groups, the most important of which are (1) the shallow wells in glacial drift, (2) the shallow wells in alluvium, (3) the nonflowing rock wells, and (4) the flowing rock wells. The drift

is not commonly a source of water except near the western border of the county, where it is fifty to seventy-five feet thick or more in places and usually carries considerable water at a level within easy reach of shallow open wells. Eastward across the county the drift decreases rapidly in thickness and yields but little water, so that it is necessary for wells to enter a rock formation. Except near the edge of the uplands, satisfactory supplies can be obtained at depths of 100 to 150 feet. Near the deepest valleys, however, the water is free to escape from the bluffs, and many of the upland wells must penetrate to depths of several hundred feet. It is not unusual for wells near the bluffs to go 250 to 350 feet for their supplies, and in some of them water is not obtained until the level of the valley bottom is reached. In general the wells on the south side of the valleys are deeper than those on the north side, because of the southward dip of the rocks. In the deep valleys many farm and village wells obtain their supplies from the alluvium at very shallow depths, but more satisfactory wells are procured in the valleys by drilling into the underlying sandstones, which are reached at moderate depths and from which the water rises nearly or quite to the surface.

Springs. In the deep valleys everywhere cut into the rock in the eastern portion of the county the water is free to escape and issues in numerous springs, some of them very large. These springs occur along lines that mark the upper surface of impervious shales and limestones. Many of the streams fed by such springs are capable of affording water power, and some of them are sources of supply for public waterworks. The strongest springs are said to be on the north side of the east-west valleys, the emergence of the water being facilitated by the southward dip of the rock.

Water Supplies for Cities and Villages. Lanesboro. The village of Lanesboro obtains much of its supply from large springs issuing from the New Richmond sandstone and possibly from the Oneota dolomite and Jordan sandstone. The spring known locally as the City spring is inclosed to form a cement-lined cistern about fifteen by thirty feet in size, from which the water is pumped by an electric motor into the village system. Although only about 27,000 gallons is consumed daily, the spring is said to be capable of yielding four times that amount. There is a large spring in the park near the village, the water of which apparently comes from the Jordan; another one and a half miles south of the village is one of the largest springs in this locality and was formerly used for water power. These springs are interesting geologically as well as economically, because they indicate that large streams flow through deep-lying Paleozoic rocks. The drainage of the region is sufficient to produce such underground erosion that long

cavernous passages have been carved out of the limestone. Where these springs are used for drinking supplies, the source should be sought out and guarded against pollution.

Spring Valley. The public supply at Spring Valley was at first obtained from springs issuing from the limestones and shales. This source soon became inadequate and the present supply is derived chiefly from a well forty feet in diameter, sunk into the limestone and shale eighteen feet below the surface.

Preston. One of the most notable springs of the county is that furnishing the Preston public supply. It issues from bedding planes at the base of the New Richmond sandstone and the top of the Oneota dolomite. It is only two feet above the level of the river and was formerly subject to overflow, but is now protected by cement walls. The water is collected in a cement cistern built down to the rock. The yield is said to be 250 gallons a minute, of which only about thirty gallons is required for the public supply. The flow is constant and independent of seasons. The water has but little permanent hardness and will not form much scale if heated before being admitted to boilers.

Rushford. The first public supply for Rushford was installed about 1887, the water being obtained from a well sunk on the side of the bluff above the village. This well was used for a number of years, but, because of the expense of pumping, a new well 553 feet deep was sunk in 1901 on low ground in the center of the village, and flowing water was obtained. The flow shows certain puzzling fluctuations. When the barometric pressure is low, and usually in the spring, it discharges out of a pipe one and a half feet above the ground, but at other times the flow stops. The changes are irregular, however, and may have some other cause besides variations in barometric pressure.

Chatfield. The village of Chatfield, which extends into Olmsted county, has a system of public waterworks deriving its supplies from wells sunk to the Jordan sandstone. Private wells drilled to depths of sixty-five to 100 feet procure an adequate supply.

Harmony. The public supply at Harmony comes from a well 220 feet deep, which ends in the St. Peter sandstone. The water is reported to stand 130 feet below the surface. It is used largely for domestic purposes.

Wykoff. The public supply at Wykoff is derived from a well 600 feet deep, which has been pumped at the rate of 180 gallons a minute. The water is reported to stand 300 feet below the surface. It is used by most of the people for domestic purposes.

Fountain. The first deep well in the vicinity of Fountain is said to have been sunk by William Herman. Its success showed the possibilities of deep wells, and accordingly others were drilled

by private persons and by the municipality. The first village well was originally six inches in diameter and 376 feet deep, but later it was sunk to a depth of 585 feet and now obtains a good supply, the water rising within 340 feet of the surface. A street well was sunk to a depth of 376 feet and was pumped by a windmill and later by a gasoline engine, but it finally failed. A new village well, sunk in 1906 to a depth of 608 feet, obtains water at depths of 90 feet and 370 feet and at the bottom.

The large springs from which Fountain derives its name are a mile or more northwest of the village and issue at a level 147 feet lower than the general level of the village. The water comes in large volume from solution crevices in the limestone immediately above the shales (see the above sections). At one time it was lifted by a ram to the village, but the springs were abandoned because of the muddiness of the water after storms, evidently due to the earth entering the underground passages through the sinks in the vicinity. Since these sink holes are often made the receptacles of refuse, the waters are liable to pollution, and the village did well to abandon its supply.

Mabel. The public supply at Mabel is here drawn from a well 140 feet deep, in which the water rises within forty feet of the surface. A majority of the people use private wells.

Canton. In the village of Canton there is a well 240 feet deep. The stock yards are supplied from a well reported to be 318 feet deep. These wells apparently derive their water from the New Richmond and Jordan sandstones, respectively.

Summary. The most reliable supplies in Fillmore county are derived from the deep sandstone formations. The water from these beds stands at a level far below the upland surface, but rises nearly to the level of the deepest valleys and near Rushford produces flows. Many satisfactory wells for farm and domestic supplies are obtained from the surface deposits and from the rock formations near the surface. These wells have an advantage over those going to the deep sandstones both in depth and in head. The waters from all the horizons utilized are similar in chemical composition. They contain rather large amounts of calcium and magnesium and the bicarbonate radicle, but little other mineral matter.

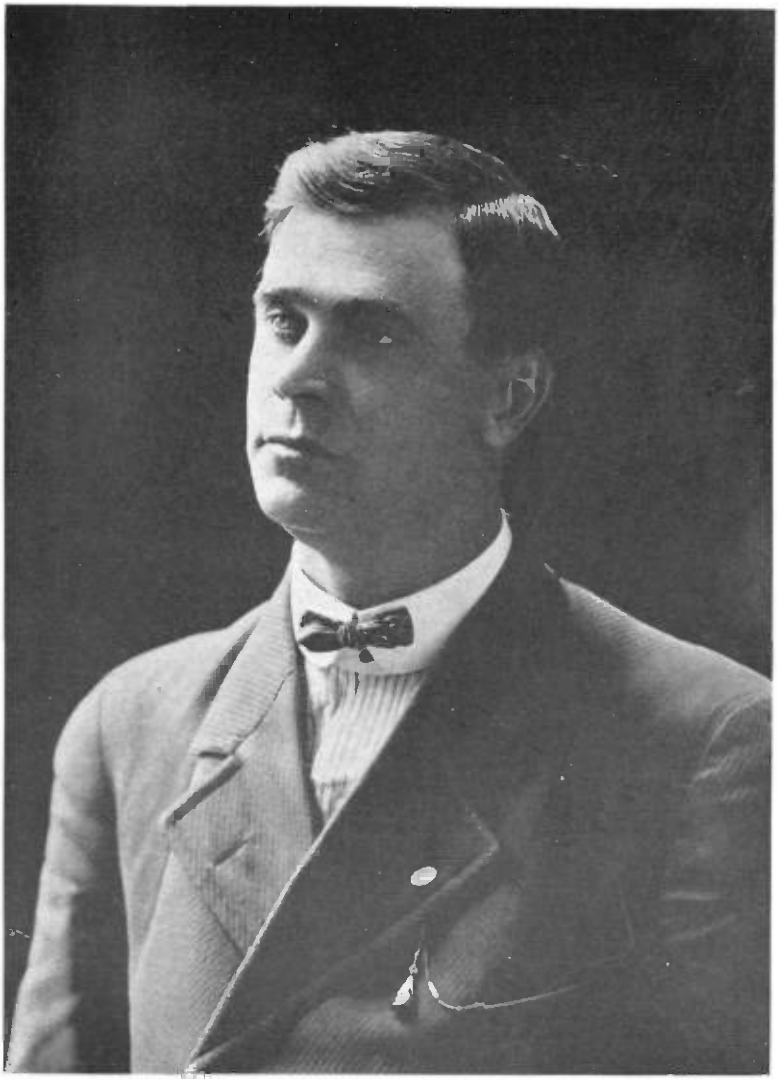
CHAPTER XXXIX.

CREAMERY INTERESTS.

Rise of the Dairy Industry in Fillmore County—Early Farmers Kept a Few Cows for Home Use—Attention Turned to Stock Raising—The First Creameries—Farmers Benefit by Co-operation—The Present Creameries—Edited by E. L. Babcock.

The first settlers in Fillmore county engaged in wheat raising almost exclusively, and the virgin soil yielded twenty to thirty bushels to the acre, year after year, No. 1, hard. For several years this staple had to be hauled across country to Mississippi points. With the coming of the railroad in 1868, Fillmore county was placed in closer communication with the wheat markets, and there was a corresponding increase in wheat production. Soldiers had then been three years home from the war, much new land was being broken, and the county was becoming famous as a wheat center.

But the wheat decline, starting in 1878 and coincident with the big drop in wheat prices, caused the farmers to turn their attention to diversified farming and dairying. Progress in the direction of dairying, however, was slow. It is true that the early settlers brought with them a few cows for dairy and beef purposes, a few hogs which they marketed to some extent, and some poultry, but it was not until after the wheat failure that stock raising was considered as a leading feature of farm endeavor. Following the failure, Shorthorns and native cattle were bred, and a portion of the former large wheat fields were turned into pastures. However, large herds were the exception rather than a rule, and dairying was conducted on only a small scale. At that time agricultural experiment in this country was in its infancy, and the modern method of acclimation was unknown. Corn brought from more southern states and planted here was an uncertain crop, owing to the late springs and early falls. It was believed that only tame grasses, like clover and timothy, could be raised here. Without corn and good grass, Fillmore county beef could not compete with the better class of stock sold in the market, nor could extensive dairying flourish under these circumstances. The average farmer owned four or five cows. A few herds were gathered here and shipped annually from this



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county to the western plains and ranges. Horses were raised to some small extent and sold for a time at profit in the northwestern markets, chiefly in the larger cities. Cattle raising, however, under such disadvantages brought little, if any, profit, and then, too, the market value of the horse soon fell. It was while the Fillmore county farmers were realizing less and less each year and while they were in doubt as to what branch of agriculture to adopt next, that their attention was attracted to the new process of making butter from cream separated from the milk by machinery.

The churning of butter had for many years been an irksome task on almost every Fillmore county farm. Most of this dairying was on a small scale and the butter of a poor quality. A farmer here and there kept as high as a dozen or more milch cows, and established a reputation in the neighboring town for his wife's butter that enabled him to realize a fair price for his product. But private dairying meant doubtful profits, slavery for the women on the farm and much annoyance and waste of time to the farmer and his hired help. Accordingly, efforts were made at different times in several of the towns and villages of the county to make butter on a larger scale, and wagons were sent out in all directions to gather the cream from the top of the cans, paying the farmer by the measured inch. The first effort in this line was made in the southeast part of the county, by William Beard, who lived near Frankville, in Allamakie county, Iowa, and sent men to Fillmore county to collect cream from the farmers.

The gathered cream plants were usually owned either by individuals or by the merchants and town people, who formed themselves into stock companies, though in one or two instances a few farmers formed stock companies among themselves and bought cream by the inch throughout a territory which often covered ten or fifteen miles in every direction.

The new separator process promised to do away with all the objectionable features of making butter at the farm, and to realize profits instead of the losses experienced by both the owners and patrons of the gathered cream plants. The separator had been invented in Sweden early in the eighties; accounts of it had been published and its merits discussed in all the leading agricultural papers. Creamery supply houses throughout the West were advertising the new machines widely and commended them to those who were engaged in the manufacture of butter. Co-operative separator creameries were already in operation 100 miles south of Fillmore county in Iowa, and the separator process had been adopted by the established creameries in the Illinois and Wisconsin districts. It was represented that the separator

would skim so clean that but a small fraction of 1 per cent of butter fat would remain in the milk, and the separated milk could still be used as valuable feed for young stock on the farm.

With the belief that the use of the separator would make the manufacture of butter profitable and that dairying would prove a safe business for years to come, the Fillmore county farmers, after careful inquiry and investigation, formed themselves into co-operative associations. They borrowed money to the amount of many thousands of dollars, erected creamery buildings, bought separators, churns, butter workers, boilers, engines, vats and pumps, hired skilled butter-makers, and commenced those shipments of butter to the eastern markets which have increased steadily from year to year, and in return for which money to the amount of many millions of dollars has been paid to the creamery patrons.

Since the establishing of the dairy industry, and in connection with it, the Fillmore county farmers have adopted the intelligent and safe policy of diversified farming. No large fields of any one crop are longer grown, but instead many different crops are put in, so that there is certain to be each year a good yield of something, principally corn, oats, flax, clover and grasses. To add to the resources of the county, it was discovered that the former belief that tame grasses could not be grown was erroneous, for now clover and timothy, millet and grasses of all varieties grow here in great luxuriance and possess such unusual qualities that our butter excels in flavor and body that produced in other states. Corn, too, whether from acclimation of the seed or from longer seasons or from better cultivation, or from all these causes, has become a safe crop, and next to grass has become the chief crop.

The improved economic conditions in Fillmore county since the introduction of the co-operative creamery are apparent on every hand. Farm lands have risen in value and $100 an acre is not now considered an unusual price for a well improved farm. The small houses or log huts of the earlier period have given way to spacious farm houses well furnished and arranged for the convenience of the housewife. The straw sheds and rough stables have been replaced by the big barn with plenty of room for cattle, horses and hundreds of tons of hay and feed. The grain and corn binders, rakes, hay loaders and stackers, cultivators and machinery and tools of all kinds are sheltered in well built sheds. Every farm has a granary, an artesian well or a deep tubular well and a windmill, sometimes with gearing and attachments for grinding feed. The fences are of barbed or woven wire and in good repair. The stock is of good breed and is improving rapidly from year to year. The seed for crops

is better selected. The fields are plowed in the fall and fertilized abundantly from the barnyard and tilled with the greatest care. The roads are better worked, graded and drained, and each year more miles of gravel are added and travel made more easy to the creamery and the market. There is a school house, comfortably built and well equipped, within easy reach of every house. The farmers from being the debtor class have become the creditor. They buy more and better goods at a less price than formerly and pay for what they get in cash which they receive from the creamery without fail every month. They drive better rigs, or even automobiles, and travel more, study more, deal more with one another, are more in touch with business, acquire experience in bookkeeping and money matters—in short, the status of the Fillmore county farmer and his family has improved in every respect, and he himself attributes this changed economic and social condition to the co-operative separator creamery of which he is always a patron.

Great credit is due to the farmers of Fillmore county for fostering the co-operative creamery idea, and there have been so few failures that the good work has gone on almost unrestrained until it is altogether our greatest industry. So, with a soil that raises the best grasses in the world, the people look to see the returns increased many fold as the years go on. The flavor that our better gets from the sweet and nutritious grasses enables Fillmore county butter to top the market in the eastern cities.

The large returns from milk and butter in the past few years have encouraged the farmers to breed better cattle, and the number that are using pure bred dairy sires has increased very materially in that time, and in another five years will add many full-blood and high-grade animals to our herds. Many full-blood and high-grade dairy herds have sprung up in the past few years. The dairy cow is queen of the farm and one of the greatest mortgage lifters in existence. She is virtually a machine which turns the products of the farms into greatest profit. In order to get the largest returns her ways and her disposition must be understood. She affects almost any branch of farming and she is the most economical producer on the farm. There are at the present time about 62,000 cattle in the county, 22,000 being dairy cows.

There are now twelve creameries in Fillmore county. Nine are co-operative and three independent.

The annual report of the Dairy and Food Department of the state of Minnesota gives a recapitulation of the creameries in Fillmore county. In the following list, gathered from that report, the name of the creamery association appears first, then

the shipping point, then the name of the secretary and, lastly, the name of the buttermaker:

Independent. Arendahl Creamery, Arendahl township, M. O. Kjos, George J. Anstad; Choice Creamery, Peterson, G. T. Eiken, G. T. Eiken; Lanesboro Creamery, Lanesboro, C. C. Madson, C. C. Madson.

Co-operative. Amherst Creamery Association, Amherst, E. L. Babcock, E. M. Sederberg; Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Association, Ostrander, H. O. Larson, H. Halvorson; Farmers Co-operative Creamery Association, Rushford, Aasmund Vaagen, Joseph Plonty; Farmers' Creamery Company, Spring Valley, L. D. Hamlin, Justin Plonty; Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company, Granger, J. E. Burkholder, ————————; Mabel Creamery Association, Mabel, D. W. Bacon, Thomas Christopher; Norway Creamery Association, Norway, Gerhard Byholt, G. J. Overland; Preston Creamery, Preston, A. G. Olson, William Maberry; Wykoff Co-operative Creamery Company, Wykoff, W. H. Miller, Thomas Reese.

An effort has been made to present in this history the story of all the present creameries in the county, but a number of the secretaries have failed to furnish the desired information. A few typical histories of the several institutions follow:

The Amherst Co-operative Creamery, located on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section twenty-seven, Amherst township, was organized February 11, 1904. The first officers elected were: J. C. Henderson, president; Oscar E. Lewis, vice president; E. L. Babcock, secretary; C. O. Blagsvedt, treasurer; William E. Griffith, Thomas Anderson, O. M. Blagsvedt, M. O. Blagsvedt and H. J. Eddy, board of managers. The creamery was organized under the association plan, with sixty-four members, and a pledge of 414 cows. The sum of $4,500 was borrowed on association notes to build and equip a creamery and house for the buttermaker, the same to be paid from a sinking fund created by deducting one cent per pound for each pound of butter manufactured. The building was finished and the first butter manufactured on July 5, 1904, with Arch A. Furnham as buttermaker. The first year's business amounted to $7,414.81. Since then the business has been: 1905, $18,076.74; 1906, $21,559.44; 1907, $36,596.87; 1908, $42,938.54; 1909, $46,927.73; 1910, $50,067.90; 1911, $41,259.84; total, $264,841.92.

The annual report for 1911 showed a total expenditure of over $8,000.00 for buildings, machinery, repairs and improvements, and the debt all paid from the one cent sinking fund. At present there are over two hundred patrons furnishing cream from about 1,000 cows. There have been only two changes in the officers, I. M. Ward taking the place of O. E. Lewis, and

Carl G. Knudson in place of William E. Griffith, both retiring parties having moved from the state. Business is increasing daily, the creamery having paid the top prices for butter fat, besides meeting all its operating expenses and reserving about $1,000 in the sinking fund.

Granger Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Company. This association was organized February 9, 1911, with the following officers: President, J. A. Leudwig; vice president, J. Darrah; secretary, J. E. Burkholder; treasurer, F. L. Damon; directors, A. A. Bigalh, N. G. Hutchison, L. B. Pratt, R. N. McLeod, and Joe Hays. The building was erected in the spring of 1911, and few alterations have since been made, though a new vat has been added, and the material is on the ground for a new storeroom. The creamery has about 175 patrons, owning about 1,200 cows. In the early days there was a cream station here operated by the Beatrice Creamery Company. The farmers, upon organizing, purchased this old building, which had not been used for creamery purposes for many years, and replaced it with a new brick building, said by traveling men to be one of the best in the county. When the creamery started there were about seventy-five patrons. To this number more than a hundred have been added. The prospects for the future are of the best.

Pounds of cream received, 228,973; pounds of butter fat, 53,722; pounds of butter manufactured, 64,352; average test of cream, per cent, 23.46; over run 10,630, per cent, 19.78.

Receipts: Received for butter shipper, $16,650.73; received for butter sold to patrons, $612.42; received for butter sold in Granger, $163.85; received for buttermilk, $102.70; total receipts, $17,529.70.

Disbursements: Paid patrons in cash, including hauling, $14,573.75; paid patrons in butter, $612.42; paid patrons in buttermilk and sundries, $117.63; paid expense account, $1,544.92; paid sinking fund, $643.52; balance to patrons' credit, $37.46, total disbursements, $17,529.70.

The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery Association, of Ostrander, was organized February 27, 1906, the following names being included among the organizers: G. W. Troupes, O. A. Kohn, A. Gullikson, C. G. Gullickson, J. T. Halling, H. M. Hellickson, F. W. Kohn, C. E. Keenan, N. T. Miland, A. F. Tangen, A. O. Christopherson, J. J. Hanson, E. Christopherson, C. Jacobson, O. P. Hadland, G. H. Hadland, S. O. Halling, Herman Bien, J. S. Johnson, Albert Bratrud, H. C. Aarnass, A. M. Hanson, J. H. Dotzenrood, B. H. Nordgaarden, K. Johnson, W. J. Hardie, H. O. Thoreson, John Shay, J. R. Roberts, Matt Sween, Olaf Sween, Matt Iverson, Peter Hendrickson, Mrs. M. Gilbertson, H. Norby, E. N. Vigum, A. M. Anderson. The first officers were: President,

O. P. Hadland; vice president, C. E. Keenan; trustees, H. M. Hellickson and B. H. Nordgaarden; secretary and general manager, H. O. Larson. The present officers are O. P. Hadland, C. E. Keenan, A. M. Hanson, H. C. Aarnass and H. A. Skaarberg. The following facts are gathered from the last annual report: Cream received during the year, 471,034 pounds; butter fat received, 96,729; pounds of butter manufactured, 116,844; amount paid patrons in money and goods, $26,814.25; receipts for buttermilk, cream and supplies, $181.00. The creamery has about 120 patrons, owning about 1,170 cows.

A. D. GRAY

B. E. THOMPSON

CHAPTER XL

BENCH AND BAR.

Judges Who Have Presided on the Fillmore County Bench—Early Courts—Sessions at Winona, Chatfield, Carimona and Preston—Prominent Men Who Have Practiced in Fillmore County—Notes of Some of the Early Lawyers—Fillmore County Bar Association.

Alexander Ramsey, first territorial governor of Minnesota, arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1859. June 1, of the same year, by proclamation he declared the territory fully organized. June 11 he issued a second proclamation dividing the territory into three temporary judicial districts. The country west of the Mississippi and south of the Minnesota constituted the third district, with Associate Justice David Cooper on the bench. Fillmore county was at that time unsettled.

Territorial Judges William L. Welch and Andrew G. Chatfield held court in Fillmore county in territorial days. After the territory became a state, Thomas Wilson was judge of the judicial district embracing Fillmore county. Following him came Lloyd Barber and William Waterman.

In 1872 a new district was created composed of the counties of Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston, which became and has ever since remained the tenth judicial district.

At the fall election in 1872, Hon. Sherman Page, of Austin, was elected judge of the tenth judicial district and served as such during the full term of six years. He was an able man, a lawyer, lacking, perhaps, judicial temperament, but his absolute honesty and integrity was never called in question. He was always bent on dispatching business and had no patience with dilatory tactics or delay and seemed to have no comprehension between dilatory tactics and good faith grounds for delay. His idea or motto seems to have been: "The case is called—you should and must be ready—no delay will be tolerated." At any rate, his methods were called in question on February 28, 1878, when impeachment proceedings were instituted against him in the legislature of Minnesota, which resulted in a trial which is part of the history of this state, and justifies no further comment in this article than the fact that he was acquitted. The charges

were preferred as stated, and in June the result was declared in his favor. A fair verdict, perhaps, would read that an able lawyer proved to be a failure as a judge. However, after the impeachment trial and at the following election, he was a candidate for re-election, with Hon. John Q. Farmer, of Spring Valley, Fillmore county, as opponent. The election was characterized by partisanship and many personal animosities engendered by the taking of sides in the impeachment trial, but it must be said to the everlasting credit of the partisans that, with very few and remote exceptions, the hatchet was soon buried and has never since been resurrected in the judicial history of this county or district. Judge Farmer was elected and served with credit to himself and supreme satisfaction to all the people of the district, until he voluntarily retired at the end of his second term, in spite of the urgent and practically unanimous request of the bar of the district and all of the people without respect to party. It has been said that Judge Farmer was not a student. He was. He was a student of human nature; he possessed good common sense; he had a good grasp of the law; he was well equipped by experience, precept and example to perform the work imposed upon a judge on the bench and take off his coat and do the work on the farm, and not only tell others how it should be done, but show them how to do it. This was Judge Farmer. He was an admirable man, loved and admired by everyone. What he did not know in the technical sense—and it must not be said with or by any certain authority that he did not possess all the technical knowledge essential to the station which he so highly adorned—he made up by the exercise of common sense and trying to reach and usually reaching the conclusion and result that what is law is justice, and what is not justice is not law, and his decisions were generally sustained by the appellate courts.

Hon. John Whytock, of Albert Lea, Minn., was elected to succeed Judge Farmer and served up to the time of his death. He was elected to succeed himself, but died before his new term of office was appointed to begin. He was in every sense a fair-minded judge and well equipped for the position in a legal and intellectual sense, but owing to his imperfect hearing he always seemed to work at a disadvantage.

Hon. Nathan Kingsley, of Austin, Minn., was appointed by Governor Clough to succeed Judge Whytock, and by successive elections has held the position ever since. He is possessed of a keen and discriminating mind, a judicial temperament and that degree of impartiality essential to the position and the making of an ideal judge. He has served to the entire satisfaction of the bar and people of the district and has at all times been com-

mended for his diligence and prompt disposition of all cases and matters presented to him or coming before him for judicial action.

EARLY COURTS.

The judicial history of Fillmore county has its beginning with May 28, 1853, when a list of grand and petit jurors for the June term of the District Court of Fillmore county was drawn at Winona in the presence of John Iams, sheriff, and George M. Gere, a justice of the peace. This list has been preserved and is as follows:

Grand jurors: James F. Toms, Myron Toms, Nathan Brown, Willard B. Bunnell, H. Carroll, Henry C. Gere, George M. Gere, William J. Luark, George H. Sanborn, Harvey Hubbard, Isaac Hamilton, O. S. Holbrook, William B. Gere, S. A. Houck, S. A. Putnam, H. B. Waterman, E. B. Drew, T. R. Allen, E. Chapman, A. A. Gilbert, A. P. Hall, Robert Taylor and O. M. Lord.

Petit jurors: John Evans, Erastus Murray, Edwin Hamilton, John C. Laird, A. B. Smith, George Clark, John Emerson, Allen Gilmore, H. R. Thompson, Jeremiah Tibbetts, Asa Pierce, —— Fortune, Squire J. Bennett, Harry Herricks, Warren Rowel, James Kincaid, —— Fletcher, Squire Isaac Day, James (Thomas ?) Campbell, Edward Thompson, —— Webster, Peter Gove, O. H. Houck, J. S. Deman, Henry Stradling, William H. Coxyell, H. Hull, John Bentley, D. Q. Burley, J. Wilklain, J. Wright, J. D. Follette, R. Thorp, Lewis Krutley, H. W. Driver and Alexander McClintock.

The venire for the grand jury was issued to Sheriff Iams, June 11, 1853, and was returnable June 27, 1853. H. Carroll and Nathan Brown could not be found.

The venire for the petit jury was issued to Sheriff Iams, June 11, 1853. Messrs. Fortune, Fletcher, Day, Campbell and Webster could not be found.

The first writ of attachment in Fillmore county was served June 20, 1853, attaching 1,838 logs and a quantity of staves and spokes in the case of M. Sipple against John Kripps for $500.00.

The first session of the district court of Fillmore county assembled at the Winona house, in Winona, June 27, 1853, but as the judge was not present an adjournment was taken until the next day.

June 28, 1853, at Winona, with Andrew G. Chatfield on the bench, the Fillmore county court was organized. Andrew Cole was appointed district attorney for Fillmore county, and duly assumed the duties of the office. Sixteen grand jurors were present, and Franklin Blodgett and H. B. Stoll were summoned by the bench as talismen.

S. A. Babcock, attorney for Erwin Johnson, appeared and challenged the panel of the grand jury, for the reason that it did not appear from the records of the court that the grand jurors were drawn in the presence of the officials designated by law. The court disallowed the challenge, and ordered that a certificate be signed by the justice of the peace and the sheriff, both of whom were present at the drawing of the panel. The grand jurors present were then drawn and sworn and retired for business.

As there was no business before the court the petit jurors in attendance were discharged and the court adjourned until the next day.

June 29, 1853, the court met and the grand jury came into the court at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Having completed their business they were discharged by the court. Several of the grand jurors were missing at this session, and the judge ordered that an order be entered on the records of the court against them, requiring them to appear at the next term and show cause why they should not be fined for absence. The court then adjourned.

July 18, 1853, a writ of certiorari was issued in the case of G. Oleson against Stephen M. Burns, upon judgment in the above case before T. K. Allen, J. P., July 2, 1853.

The first bills against Fillmore county for court expenses were presented December 27, 1853. These were also the first bills of any sort presented to the county commissioners against the county. One was that of Grove B. Willis to the amount of $93.00, for "office rent, wood and the like." The other was that of W. B. Gere to the amount of $40.13 for "services as clerk of the court and office rent and the like."

These events, it must be remembered, transpired at Winona when Fillmore county included that place.

The first district court within the present limits of Fillmore county was held June 10, 1854, at Chatfield. Hon. William L. Welch, chief justice of the supreme court of the territory of Minnesota and judge of the judicial district embracing this county, was on the bench. The records state, "There was no court present." The judge at this session appointed Harley B. Morse district attorney for Fillmore county.

The only term of the district court held in Carimona was in July, 1855. Court was called at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of July 9, and, as Judge Welch was not present, an adjournment was taken until 9 o'clock on the morning of July 10. Judge Welch, being present, ordered a special venire to be issued for six jurors to complete the panel. Court then adjourned until the next morning. July 11, 1855, the court met, and, there

being no further business, the grand and petit jurors were discharged.

Old settlers say that in the early days a session of the federal court was held in what is now the Krause house, on the north side of River street, between St. Paul and St. Anthony streets, in the village of Preston, but nothing further seems to be known of the matter.

The first term of the territorial court held at Preston opened June 10, 1856, in a building occupying the present site of the Farmers and Merchants' Bank, on the south side of Main street, across from the present court house. Judge Welch was on the bench. Court adjourned until July 8, 1856, of the same year, when it met in the same place. E. A. McMahon and John N. Remier were admitted to practice in the supreme court of Minnesota territory on examination, and Henry C. Butler, John R. Jones and H. B. Morse were admitted on certificates from other states.

The only important criminal case was that of two men who had been committed by John Bateman, Esq., then a justice of the peace in the town of Bloomfield, accused of the crime of murder. The judge charged the grand jury that, in a new county like this, where there were no jails, nor very safe prisons, and where quarrels growing out of claim fights were necessarily incident to the then unsettled condition of affairs, it was not expected that the laws would be as rigidly enforced as in an old country, where every provision was made for strict enforcement of the laws. The grand jury took the hint that the judge did not expect that they would find indictments against them, and they did not. H. C. Butler, now deceased, for many years a leading citizen of Rochester, had been engaged as attorney for the defense. To show how confiding people were in those days, Judge Butler later related that the two men were taken in custody by the then sheriff, William H. Strong, who set them at work on a barn he was then building, allowing them to go where they pleased, but they never attempted to escape. Hon. John R. Jones was then prosecuting attorney of the county, elected in the fall of 1855.

Judge Welch also held a term of court at Preston in September, 1856. Judge Butler related afterward that he was on a committee to examine four candidates for admission to the bar, and that he was attorney in three divorce cases, the whole session of the court lasting one hour.

The first term after Minnesota became a state was held in November, 1858, by Hon. Thomas Wilson, who held the office of judge of the district court until his appointment as chief justice of the Supreme Court in 1864.

The First Appeal. The first case appealed from the district court to the supreme court, from Fillmore county, was the case of Henry C. Gere, appellee, vs. John C. Laird, appellant, and the case was decided finally in favor of the appellant.

THE BAR.

Many notable men have practiced law as residents of Fillmore county. In order that their memory may be preserved, there is here appended a list of some of these advocates of justice:

Harley B. Morse, John R. Jones, H. C. Butler, E. A. McMahon, John N. Remier, C. G. Ripley, Edward Dexter, James M. Cavanaugh, Oliver Dalrymple, C. G. Ripley, Gordon E. Cole, Nathan P. Colburn, Henry R. Wells, Henry M. Steele, James D. Farmer, H. A. Billings, Peter McCracken, John H. Kimberly, Simeon Smith, Richard A. Jones, C. Fay Willard, Josiah F. Marsh, George E. Dexter, Dryden Smith, John Q. Farmer, Grove W. Willis, Reuben Wells, — — Lindsey, R. A. Murray, H. D. Bristol, J. S. Sawyer.

The lawyers of the county at the present time are:

Preston. A. D. Gray, Richard E. Thompson, H. S. Bassett, John W. Hopp and Ludvig Gullickson.

Spring Valley. Burdett Thayer, R. J. Parker, Asa R. Burleson, Thomas Frankson and S. C. Pattridge.

Lanesboro. Sydney Anderson and A. G. Chapman.

Mabel. H. H. Hammer and JC White.

Chatfield. Joseph Underleak and E. W. Rossman.

Rushford. G. W. Rockwell.

The leading members of the Fillmore county bar in 1880 were as follows: J. D. Farmer, Burdett Thayer, Asa B. Burleson, Dryden Smith, Norman True, George E. Hibner, Spring Valley; Peter McCracken, Cherry Grove; E. C. Boyd, Wykoff; John R. Jones, N. Kingsley, Chatfield; O. Wheaton, Mabel; C. N. Enos, O. S. Berg, Rushford; B. A. Man, E. N. Donaldson, H. G. Day, Lanesboro; Reuben Wells, H. S. Bassett, N. P. Colburn, H. R. Wells, R. E. Thompson, A. D. Gray, Preston.

EARLY LAWYERS.

Harley B. Morse is believed to have been the first lawyer in Fillmore county. He came to Chatfield either in the latter part of 1854 or the early part of 1855. He removed to Colorado in the spring of 1860, and died there. He was a county judge in Colorado for many years.

John R. Jones was the second lawyer in Fillmore county. He came to Chatfield in the winter or spring of 1855. His hon-

orable record as one of the earliest county attorneys of this county, as one of the early senators from this county, as a lawyer, a soldier and a citizen, are matters of county history.

H. C. Butler was the third lawyer in the county. He settled permanently in Carimona, August 9, 1855. He did not open an office until December, when he went to Elliota for lumber for his office door and book shelves, borrowed money from his friend, William H. Strong, to pay the freight on his library which came to Lansing, Iowa, on the last boat of the season, and commenced his first suit in the district court on January 1, 1856. He moved to Rochester in 1864 and died there. He was for several terms county judge of Olmsted county.

In the spring of 1856, when the United States land office was removed from Brownsville to Chatfield, Hon. C. G. Ripley and his partner, Edward Dexter, and Hon. James M. Cavanaugh and Oliver Dalrymple came to Chatfield.

C. G. Ripley became chief justice of the supreme court and died in his native town of Concord, Mass. Fillmore county is proud of having had among her citizens one of the noblest of men, a profound scholar, possessed of fine literary tastes, analytical mind, quick and accurate perception, an exalted sense of honor, a kind heart, modest and unassuming; a profound lawyer, an upright judge and a public-spirited citizen. His memory is entitled to honor by the bench and the bar, and by the citizens, so long as merit shall command respect and esteem.

Edward Dexter returned to his native city, Boston, about the year 1862, and there spent the declining years of his life. He was in every sense a scholar, a gentleman, a man of superior mental powers and a liberal citizen.

James M. Cavanaugh, one of the first representatives in congress from the state of Minnesota, and afterward a representative from Montana, died at Leadville, Colo., in the eighties. He was one of the most eloquent orators in the state, and highly esteemed by all.

Oliver Dalrymple, who came to Chatfield with 50 cents in his pocket, became one of the most extensive farmers of the northwest.

Gordon E. Cole came to Chatfield in 1856, but removed to Faribault within two years thereafter. He was subsequently attorney general and one of the first lawyers of the state.

Nathan P. Colburn commenced the practice of law with H. C. Butler in Carimona in the fall of 1857, and removed to Preston in the spring of 1858. His honorable record as a member of the Constitutional Convention, and the first county attorney after Minnesota became a state, as a member of the legislature, as a

lawyer and a citizen, is universally known and appreciated. He died in 1908.

Henry R. Wells located in Chatfield in the fall of 1857. All know full well his history both as a resident of Chatfield and of Preston. An associate said of him: "Everyone is aware of the name and reputation Henry R. Wells has earned in his profession and business, and in his judicial capacity, and that he ought to have been judge of the district court." In 1859-1860 he was a member of the firm of Ripley, Wells & Cavenaugh. He was county judge two terms.

Henry M. Steele commenced the practice of law in the fall of 1857, in Spring Valley, but left this county in 1859 or 1860.

James D. Farmer commenced the practice of law about 1858, and continued in practice at Spring Valley until his death in 1892.

H. A. Billings, Grove W. Willis and Ruben Wells, attorneys at law, engaged in practice in the early days. Mr. Wells served in the state senate one year, was elected county attorney in 1862, moved to Preston, engaged as attorney in the pension business for over ten years and was court commissioner of Fillmore county for many years, up to the time of his death in July, 1892.

Peter McCracken was among the early members of the bar, but not until later did he take an active part in the trials of the district court. His record in the legislature, as a lawyer and as a citizen, is an honorable one.

John H. Kimberly came to Carimona, June 14, 1858, but removed to Hastings in 1859, and to New York City in 1861.

Simeon Smith came to Chatfield about the fall of 1857 and occupied an official position as paymaster in the army in 1862.

Richard A. Jones came to Chatfield in the fall of 1859, removed to Rochester in October, 1864, and died in Seattle, Wash., in August, 1888, at which time he was chief justice of the state of Washington.

C. Fay Willard came to Chatfield in 1859, and returned to Lowville, N. Y., in 1863, where he died a few years later.

Josiah F. Marsh practiced law in Preston about 1859 or 1860. He went into the army in 1862.

George E. Dexter came to Preston about 1863, removed to Charles City, Iowa, in 1873, and there died, August 28, 1894.

Dryden Smith came to Spring Valley from Decorah, Iowa, in 1859, was judge of probate and occupied minor offices.

John Q. Farmer came from Ashtabula, Ohio, to Spring Valley in 1861 to 1862, and served two terms as judge of the tenth judicial district. He served in both houses of the Minnesota legislature and was a prominent man in every respect.

Henry S. Bassett came to Forestville with his parents in 1853, and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. He commenced

practice in Preston in 1872, and continues to the present time. He is a close student, indefatigable in his practice and eminently successful as a lawyer. He served fifteen years as county judge.

Fillmore County Bar Association. At an early day there were few conventionalities or forms to be observed in handling cases in court, and the pleadings were usually of a motley variety, a mixture of logic, of traditional law nomenclature, usually with considerable common sense interlarded with more or less frontier slang. The justices court in particular was often the scene of drolleries and comical incidents of the most mirth-provoking character. The line as to who should or should not practice in these courts was not well defined. But about the year 1860 a bar association was formed at the court house, with Reuben Wells as president. The constitution of this society was signed November 13, 1860, by the following: Simeon Smith, Reuben Wells, H. D. Bristol, Jones, Willard & Jones, Ripley, Wells & Cavanaugh, H. A. Billings, Henry C. Butler, N. P. Colburn, J. S. Sawyer, J. F. Marsh, Dryden Smith.

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